1	DIAMOND MCCARTHY LLP	
2	Christopher R. Murray, Esq. (pro hac vice) Michael Fishel, Esq. (pro hac vice)	
3	909 Fannin, Suite 1500 Houston, TX 77010	
4	Telephone: 713-333-5100	
5	Facsimile: 713-333-5199 cmurray@diamondmccarthy.com	
6	mfishel@diamondmccarthy.com	
7	Counsel for Allan B. Diamond Chapter 11 Trustee for Howrey LLP	
8	KORNFIELD, NYBERG, BENDES & KUHNF	CR P.C.
9	Eric A. Nyberg, Esq. (Bar No. 131105)	
10	Chris D. Kuhner, Esq. (Bar No. 173291) 1970 Broadway, Suite 225	
11	Oakland, CA 94612 Telephone: 510-763-1000	
12	Facsimile: 510-273-8669	
13	Local Counsel for Allan B. Diamond,	
14	Chapter 11 Trustee for Howrey LLP	
15	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT	
16	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION	
17	)	Case No. 11-31376 DM
18	In re	Chapter 11 Hon. Dennis Montali
19	HOWREY LLP,	21021 2 02220 120220
20	Debtor.	DECLARATION OF NO OBJECTION TO CHAPTER 11 TRUSTEE'S FIRST
21		<b>OMNIBUS MOTION FOR</b>
22		AUTHORITY UNDER BANKRUPTCY RULE 9019 TO
23		ENTER INTO MULTIPLE SETTLEMENTS WITH FORMER HOWREY PARTNERS
24	,	
25	I, Michael Fishel, declare as follows:	
26		

- 1. I am an attorney at law admitted *pro hac vice* to practice before this court and I am a partner with the law firm of Diamond McCarthy LLP, attorneys of record for Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee.
- 2. I know the following of my own personal knowledge and could and would testify competently thereto if called upon to do so.
- 3. On June 4, 2015, the Trustee filed a Notice and Opportunity for Hearing ("Notice") and served the Notice on all creditors and interested parties. A copy of the Notice, including proof of service, is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."
- 4. Attached hereto as Exhibit "B" is a copy of the First Omnibus Motion for Authority Under Bankruptcy Rule 9019 to Enter Into Multiple Settlements with Former Howrey Partners ("Settlement Motion").
- 5. More than twenty-one (21) days have elapsed since service of the Settlement Motion and no response has been received by our office to the requested relief.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed this 26th day of June 2015 at Houston, Texas.

/s/ Michael	Fishel	

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Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2303 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 07:11:08 Page 2 of 119

# **EXHIBIT A**

Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2303 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 07:11:08 Page 3 of 119

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	DIAMOND McCARTHY LLP Christopher R. Murray (pro hac vice) Michael Fishel, Esq. (pro hac vice) 909 Fannin, 15th Floor Houston, TX 77010 Telephone: 713-333-5100 Facsimile: 713-333-5199 cmurray@diamondmccarthy.com mfishel@diamondmccarthy.com Counsel for Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee for Howrey LLP  KORNFIELD, NYBERG, BENDES & KUHNER, P.C. Eric A. Nyberg, Esq. (Bar No. 131105) Chris D. Kuhner, Esq. (Bar No. 173291) 1970 Broadway, Suite 225 Oakland, CA 94612 Telephone: 510-763-1000 Facsimile: 510-273-8669
13	Local Counsel for Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee for Howrey LLP
14	
15 16	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION
17 18 19 20	Debtor.  Debtor.  Case No. 11-31376 DM Chapter 11 Hon. Dennis Montali  NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING
<ul><li>21</li><li>22</li></ul>	) .
<ul><li>23</li><li>24</li><li>25</li><li>26</li></ul>	<b>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN</b> that on June 4, 2015, Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as chapter 11 trustee for the estate of Howrey LLP (the " <u>Trustee</u> ") and the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (" <u>Committee</u> ") filed his <i>First Omnibus Motion for Authority Under Bankruptcy Rule 9019 to Enter Into Multiple Settlements with Former Howrey Partners</i> (the " <u>Settlement Motion</u> ") (Docket No. 2277).

Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2208 Filed: 06/06/15 Entered: 06/06/15 02:23:09 Page 4 of

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Bankruptcy Local Rule 9014-1 of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California prescribes the procedures to be followed and any objection to the relief requested in the Settlement Motion, or request for hearing, must be filed and served upon counsel for the Trustee within 21 days of the date of service of this Notice.

**NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that any objection or request for hearing must be accompanied by any declarations or memoranda of law that the party wishes to present in support of its position.

Dated: June 3, 2015 **DIAMOND McCARTHY LLP** 

/s/ Michael Fishel

Christopher R. Murray (pro hac vice) Michael Fishel, Esq. (pro hac vice)

909 Fannin, 15th Floor Houston, TX 77010

Telephone: 713-333-5100 Facsimile: 713-333-5199

cmurray@diamondmccarthy.com mfishel@diamondmccarthy.com Counsel for Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee for Howrey LLP

329134-1 2

Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2208 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 02:23:29 Page 2 of

1	KORNFIELD, NYBERG, BENDES
2	<b>&amp;KUHNER, P.C.</b> Eric A. Nyberg, Esq. (Bar No. 131105)
3	Chris D. Kuhner, Esq. (Bar No. 173291)
4	1970 Broadway, Suite 225 Oakland, CA 94612
5	Telephone: 510-763-1000 Facsimile: 510-273-8669
6	Local Counsel for Allan B. Diamond,
7	Chapter 11 Trustee for Howrey LLP
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
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329134-1 3 Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2208 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 02:23:29 Page 6 of

2	X (CM/ECF) The document was electronically served on the parties to this action via the mandatory United States Bankruptcy Court of California CM/ECF system upon filing
	of above described document:
4	SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST
5	V (ELECTRONIC MAIL CERVICE) De electronic mell (e mell) de electronic
6	<u>X</u> (ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICE) By electronic mail (e-mail) the above listed document(s) without error to the email address(es) set forth below on this date:
7	SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST
8	
9	X (UNITED STATES MAIL) By depositing a copy of the above-referenced documents for mailing in the United States Mail, first class postage prepaid, at Houston,
10	Texas, to the parties listed, at their last known mailing addresses, on this date:
11	SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST
12	(OVERNIGHT COURIER) By depositing a true and correct copy of the above
13	referenced document for overnight delivery via Federal Express, at a collection facility
14	maintained for such purpose, addressed to the parties on the attached service list, at their
15	last known delivery address, on the date above written.
16	(COURIER SERVICE) By providing true and correct copies of the above referenced documents via courier delivery, to the following on or about
17	:
18	
19	(FACSIMILE) That I served a true and correct copy of the above-referenced
20	document via facsimile, to the facsimile numbers indicated, to those people listed on the attached service list, on the date above written.
21	
22	/s/ Michael Fishel
	Michael Fishel
23	
24	
25	
26	

NOTICE OF SERVICE

329134-1 4
Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2208 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 02:23:29 Page 4 of

1	VIA CM/ECF:	
2	<b>United States Trustee</b>	Minnie Loo, Esq.
2		Donna S. Tamanaha, Esq.
3		Office of the U.S. Trustee
4		235 Pine Street. 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor San Francisco, CA 94104-3484
•		Email: Minnie.Loo@usdoj.gov
5		Email: Donna.S.Tamanaha@usdoj.gov
		Email: USTPRegion17.SF.ECF@usdoj.gov
6		Email: <u>ltroxas@hotmail.com</u>
7	Chapter 11 Trustee	Allan B. Diamond
8	<b></b>	Diamond McCarthy, LLP
0		Two Houston Center
9		909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
		Houston, Texas 77010
10		Email: adiamond@diamondmccarthy.com
11	Counsel for the Chapter 11 Trustee	Diamond McCarthy, LLP
12		Howard D. Ressler, Esq.
12		Email: <a href="mailto:hressler@diamondmccarthy.com">hressler@diamondmccarthy.com</a> Stephen T. Loden, Esq.
13		Email: sloden@diamondmccarthy.com
		Jason M. Rudd, Esq.
14		Email: jrudd@diamondmccarthy.com
1.5		Christopher R. Murray, Esq.
15		Email: <a href="mailto:cmurray@diamondmccarthy.com">cmurray@diamondmccarthy.com</a>
16		Kornfield Nyberg Bender & Kuhner P.C.
		Eric Nyberg
17		Email: e.nyberg@kornfieldlaw.com
18		Chris D. Kuhner
		Email: c.kuhner@kornfieldlaw.com
19	Debtor's Counsel	Murray & Murray
20	Debtor's Counser	Robert A. Franklin
20		Craig M. Prim
21		Jenny Lynn Fountain
22		Email: rfranklin@murraylaw.com
22		Email: cprim@murraylaw.com
23		Email: jfountain@murraylaw.com
24		Joel D. Adler
24		Email: jadler@adlerlaw.net
25	Duane Morris LLP	Geoffrey A. Heaton, Esq.
26		Email: gheaton@duanemorris.com
∠0		Aron M. Oiner, Esq.
		Email: <a href="mailto:roliner@duanemorris.com">roliner@duanemorris.com</a>

329134-1 5
Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2208 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 02:23:29 Page 8 of

1	Law Offices of Latham & Watkins	Kimberly A. Posin, Esq.  Email: <a href="mailto:kim.posin@lw.com">kim.posin@lw.com</a>
2		Email: colleen.greenwood@lw.com
3	Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors	Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLP Bradford F. Englander, Esq.
4		Email: benglander@wtplaw.com
5		John F. Carlton, Esq.  **Email: jcarlton@wtplaw.com**  **Table 1. **Table 2.
6		Justin P. Fasano, Esq.  Email: jfasano@wtplaw.com
7		
8	Counsel for The Irvine Company, LLC	Allen Matkins, et al.  Email: mgreger@allenmatkins.com
		Email: krodriguez@allenmatkins.com
9	Counsel for Creditor Citibank, N.A.	Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
10		Kelley A. Cornish, Esq.  Email: kcornish@paulweiss.com
11		McNutt Law Group, LLP
12		Scott H. McNutt, Esq.
13		Email: <u>smcnutt@ml-sf.com</u>
14	Counsel for Creditor Protiviti, Inc.	Pachulski, Stang, Ziehl & Jones John D. Fiero, Esq.
15		Email: jfiero@pszjlaw.com
		Email: <u>ksuk@pszjlaw.com</u> Email: <u>ocarpio@pszjlaw.com</u>
16		
17	Counsel for Creditor Oracle America, Inc.	Buchalter Nemer
18		Shawn M. Christianson, Esq.  Email: <a href="mailto:schristianson@buchalter.com">schristianson@buchalter.com</a>
19	Counsel for Creditor U.S. Bank, N.A.,	Perkins Coie LLP
20	as Trustee	David J. Gold, Esq.
21		Email: dgold@perkinscoie.com Gabriel Liao, Esq.
22		Email: gliao@perkinscoie.com
	Counsel for Attorneys' Liability Assurance	Perkins Coie LLP
23	Society, Inc., A Risk Retention Group	Alan D. Smith, Esq.  Email: adsmith@perkinscoie.com
24	Counsel for BP/CGCENTER I, LLC	Allen, Matkins, Leck, Gamble and Mallory
25	Counsel for DI/COCENTER I, LLC	William W. Huckins
26		Email: whuckins@allenmatkins.com
	Counsel for Creditor Warner Investment, L.P.	McKenna Long and Aldridge LLP Gregg S. Kleiner, Esq.
		Gregg 5. Riemer, Esq.
	220124.1	6

329134-1 6
Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2208 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 02:23:29 Page 9 of

1		Email: gkleiner@mckennalong.com
2		Michael A. Isaacs, Esq.  Email: misaacs@mckennalong.com
		Email: aworthing@mckennalong.com
3 4	Counsel for Creditor Iron Mountain Information Management Inc.	<b>Bartlett, Hackett and Feinberg</b> Frank F. McGinn, Esq.
	into mation Management Inc.	Email: ffm@bostonbusinesslaw.com
5	Counsel for Creditor Hines REIT 321	DLA Piper LLP
6	North Clark Street, LLC	Frank T. Pepler, Esq.
7		Email: frank.pepler@dlapiper.com
8	Counsel for Creditor Stephanie Langley	Outten and Golden LLP
9		Rene S. Roupinian, Esq.  Email: rst@outtengolden.com
9		Email: jxh@outtengolden.com
10		Law Offices of James D. Wood
11		James D. Wood, Esq.
12		Email: jdw@jdwoodlaw.com
	<b>Counsel for Creditor Pension Benefit</b>	Office of the Chief Counsel
13	Guaranty Corp.	John Holland Ginsberg, Esq.  Email: ginsberg.john@pbgc.gov
14		
15	Counsel for Interested Party Connecticut General Life Insurance Company	Schnader Harrison Segal and Lewis Melissa Lor, Esq.
16	- Company	Email: MLor@Schnader.com
	Counsel for Creditor Knickerbocker	Seyfarth Shaw LLP
17	Properties, Inc. XXXIII	Scott Olson, Esq.
18		Email: solson@seyfarth.com
19	Counsel for Creditor Texas Comptroller	Bankruptcy & Collections Division
20	of Public Accounts	Kimberly Walsh, Esq.  Email: bk-kwalsh@oag.state.tx.us
21	Counsel for Creditor 200 S. Main Street	Ballard Spahr Andrews and Ingersoll
	Investors, LLC	Rebecca J. Winthrop, Esq.
22		Email: WinthropR@ballardspahr.com Penny M. Costa, Esq.
23		Email: costap@ballardspahr.com
24	Counsel for Creditor Citibank, N.A.	Peitzman Weg LLP
25		Larry Peitzman, Esq.
		Email: lpeitzman@peitzmanweg.com
26	Counsel for Jones Day	Jones Day
	And Jones Day Former Partners	Robert A. Trodella <i>Email</i> : rtrodella@jonesday.com
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1		Brian D. McDonald  Email: bdmcdonald@jonesday.com
2		<del></del>
3	Counsel for Harris County	Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson LLP John P. Dillman
4		Email: houston_bankruptcy@lgbs.com
5	Counsel for Informal Group of Certain Former Howrey Attorneys and Defendant	<b>Dumas &amp; Clark LLP</b> Robert E. Clark
6	Unum Life Insurance Company of America	Email: robert.clark@dumasclark.com
7	Counsel for SAP America, Inc.	Cooper White & Cooper LLP Peter C. Califano
8		Email: pcalifano@cwclaw.com
9	Counsel for SAP America, Inc.	Brown & Connery LLP
10		Donald K. Ludman, Esq.  Email: dludman@brownconnery.com
11	Counsel for McKenna Long and Aldridge	Michael A. Isaacs, Esq.  Email: misaacs@mckennalong.com
12		aworthing@mckennalong.com
13	Counsel for Jeffrey M. Judd	Judd Law Group
14		Jeffrey M. Judd, Esq. <b>Email</b> : <u>jeff@juddlawgroup.com</u>
15		melanie@juddlawgroup.com
16	Counsel for Cooper US, Inc.	Cooper Industries, Inc.
		Paula Beck Whitten, Esq.  Email: paula.whitten@cooperindustries.com
17		
18	Counsel for Neal Gerber & Eisenberg LLP	Hanson Bridgett LLP
19		Nancy J. Newman  Email: nnewman@hansonbridgett.com
20		
21	Counsel for Defendant Kelly Services, Inc.	Ruth Elin Auerbach, Esq.  Email: attorneyruth@sbcglobaln.net
22	Counsel for Creditor Rami Dalal	Teresa A. Blasberg, Esq.
23		Email: tablasberg@earthlink.net
24	Counsel for Defendant Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP	Richard W. Brunette, Esq.
25	raentei & Hampton LLI	Email: rbrunette@sheppardmullin.com
		Email: rryland@sheppardmullin.com
26	Counsel for Defendant Barbara G. Werther	Louis J. Cisz, III, Esq.

1		Email: <u>lcisz@nixonpeabody.com</u>
2	Counsel for Defendant Davidson Law Group,	Robert E. Clark, Esq.
3	Ralls & Niece LLP, Ropes & Gray LLP, Ben Davidson, Geert Goeteyn, John W. Ralls,	Email: robert.clark@dumasclark.com
4	Stephen Mavroghenis, Informal Group of Certain Former Howrey Attorneys, and Teresa Corbin	
5	Counsel for Defendant Recommind, Inc.	Patrick M. Costello, Esq.
6		Email: <a href="mailto:pcostello@vectislawgroup.com">pcostello@vectislawgroup.com</a> Email: <a href="mailto:clee@vectislawgroup.com">clee@vectislawgroup.com</a>
7	Counsel for Defendant Hogan Lovells US LLP	Diana D. DiGennaro, Esq.
8	Reed Smith LLP	Email: diana.digennaro@aporter.com Email: jhoskins@howardrice.com
9		Jonathan Hughes, Esq.
10		Email: jonathan.hughes@aporter.com Email: joanne.caruso@aporter.com
		Pamela Phillips, Esq.
11		Email: pamela.phillips@aporter.com  Email: sfcalendar@aporter.com
12		
13	Counsel for Defendant James R Batchelder,	G. Larry Engel, Esq.
14	And Interested Party Certain Former Partners	Email: lengel@mofo.com
	Partners of Day Casebeer Madrid & Batchelder LLI	Email: vnovak@mofo.com
15		Email: jkline@mofo.com
16	Counsel for Defendant Baker Hughes Incorporated	Gregg M. Ficks, Esq.
17		Email: gficks@coblentzlaw.com
18	Counsel for Defendant Medco Health Solutions, Inc.	
		Email: mijams@curtislegalgroup.com  Email: achristensen@curtislegalgroup.com
19		
20	Counsel for Defendant Legal Placements, Inc. And Lexolution, LLC	Bruce H. Jackson, Esq.  Email: bruce.jackson@bakermckenzie.com
21	. Ma Dekolution, DEC	Email:
22		christine.vonseeburg@bakermckenzie.com
	Counsel for Defendant Ceridian Benefit	Ori Katz, Esq
23	Services, Inc.	Email: okatz@sheppardmullins.com
24	Counsel for Defendant Kilpatrick Townsend	Louise E. Ma, Esq.
25	& Stockton LLP	Email: <a href="mailto:lma@kilpatricktownsend.com">lma@kilpatricktownsend.com</a> Email: <a href="mailto:sbaker-lehne@kilpatricktownsend.com">sbaker-lehne@kilpatricktownsend.com</a>
26	Council for Interested Posts Ad Har Cours	
	Counsel for Interested Party Ad Hoc Committee Of Certain Former Howrey Partners	John H. MacConaghy, Esq.  Email: macclaw@macbarlaw.com
	•	Email: smansour@macbarlaw.com
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1		Email: kmuller@macbarlaw.com
2		
3	Counsel for Defendant Hunton & Williams LLP	Matthew A. Mannering, Esq.  Email: <a href="maintenancemg">mmannering@hunton.com</a> Email: <a href="maintenancemg">lgodfrey@hunton.com</a>
4 5	Counsel for Defendant Bunsow De Mory Smith & Allison LLP	Randy Michelson, Esq. <i>Email:</i>
6		randy.michelson@michelsonlawgroup.com
7	Counsel for Defendant Venable LLP	Jennifer L. Nassiri, Esq.  Email: jnassiri@venable.com
8 9	Counsel for Defendant TSG Reporting, Inc. & Stockton LLP	Howard S. Nevins, Esq.  Email: <a href="mailto:hnevins@hsmlaw.com">hnevins@hsmlaw.com</a> Email: <a href="mailto:lsamosa@hsmlaw.com">lsamosa@hsmlaw.com</a>
<ul><li>10</li><li>11</li></ul>	Counsel for Defendant Intelligent Management Solutions, I	Valerie Banter Peo, Esq.  Email: vpeo@schnader.com
12 13	Counsel for Defendant Cornerstone Research, Inc.	Steven G. Polard, Esq.  Email: stevenpolard@dwt.com
<ul><li>14</li><li>15</li><li>16</li></ul>	Counsel for Defendants Joseph Albanese & Associates, Inc., Stemcell Technologies, Inc., and Leigh Kirmsse	Email: melissawells@dwt.com  Scott A. Schiff, Esq. Email: sas@soukup-schiff.com
17 18	Counsel for Defendant SJ Berwin LLP, and Defendant Michael Knospe,	Charles M. Tatelbaum, Esq.  Email: ctatelbaum@hinshawlaw.com  Email: csmith@hinshawlaw.com
19 20	Counsel for Defendant Haynes and Boone, LLP	Alan R. Wechsler, Esq.  Email: alan.wechsler@haynesboone.com Christopher Maciel, Esq.  Email: chris.maciel@haynesboone.com
21	Council for Defendant Vesserite Densen	
22	Counsel for Defendant Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman LLP	Margaret Ziemianek, Esq.  Email: mziemianek@kasowitz.com  Email: courtnotices@kasowitz.com
23		Zimmi. com monocs(ajmsown2.com
<ul><li>24</li><li>25</li></ul>	Counsel for SJ Berwin LLP	Bradley M. Zamczyk, Esq.  Email: bzamczyk@hinshawlaw.com
26	Counsel for Watt Companies	Email: <a href="mailto:crossi@hinshawlaw.com">crossi@hinshawlaw.com</a> Dustin P. Branch, Esq.  Email: <a href="mailto:dustin.branch@kattenlaw.com">dustin.branch@kattenlaw.com</a>

329134-1 10
Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2208 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 02:23:29 Page 10

1	Counsel for Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP	George Allen Brandt, Esq.  Email: allen.brandt@pillsburylaw.com
2		Ana N. Damonte, Esq. Email: ana.damonte@lehighhanson.com
3	Counsel for Creditor Verizon Communications	Dennis D. Davis, Esq.
4		Email: <u>jrose@gsdllaw.com</u>
5	Counsel for Davis & Hosfield Consulting	Michael Delaney, Esq.  Email: mdelaney@bakerlaw.com
6		Clinton J. McCord, Esq.  Email: <a href="mailto:cmccord@edwardswildman.com">cmccord@edwardswildman.com</a>
7	Council for Soutouth Show I I D	-
8	Counsel for Seyfarth Shaw LLP	Marianne M. Dickson, Esq.  Email: mdickson@seyfarth.com  M. Donn Birlander Form
9		M. Ryan Pinkston, Esq.  Email: <a href="mailto:rpinkston@seyfarth.com">rpinkston@seyfarth.com</a>
10	Counsel for Perkins Coie LLP	Judith B. Gitterman, Esq.
11		Email: <u>jgitterman@perkinscoie.com</u> Jeffrey S. Goodfried, Esq.
12		Email: <u>jgoodfried@perkinscoie.com</u>
13	Counsel for Vestigant, LLC	Walter W. Gouldsbury, III, Esq. Email: wwg@jmbm.com
14	Counsel for Andrew Reidy	Miriam E. Hiser, Esq.
15	·	Email: <u>mhiser@hiserlaw.com</u>
16	Counsel for Salter & Company PLLC	Ivo Keller, Esq. Email: <u>ikeller@buchalter.com</u>
17	Counsel for Stemcell Technologies, Inc.	Richard A. Lapping, Esq.
18	Counsel for Stemeen Teenhologies, Inc.	Email: <u>Richard@lappinglegal.com</u>
19	Counsel for Katherine M. Basile	Monika P. Lee, Esq.  Email: monikalee@leelawllp.com
20	Council for Thomson Doutous Inc	
21	Counsel for Thomson Reuters, Inc.	Issa K. Moe, Esq.  Email: <u>issa.moe@lawmoss.com</u>
22	Counsel for IKON Office Solutions, Inc.	Christopher O. Rivas, Esq.
23		Email: <u>crivas@reedsmith.com</u>
24	Counsel for Shearman & Sterling LLP	Steven E. Sherman, Esq.  Email: <a href="mailto:sesherman@shearman.com">sesherman@shearman.com</a>
<ul><li>25</li><li>26</li></ul>	Counsel for Baker Hughes Inc.	Ross Spence, Esq.  Email: rossspence@snowfogel.com

1	<u>VIA EMAIL:</u>	
2	Counsel for Creditor Citibank, N.A.	Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
3		Kelley A. Cornish, Esq.  Email: kcornish@paulweiss.com
		Diane Meyers, Esq.
4		Email: dmeyers@paulweiss.com
5		Jacob J. Adlerstein, Esq. <i>Email: jadlerstein@paulweiss.com</i>
6		ayoung@paulweiss.com
	Ballard Spahr LLP	Matthew Moncur, Esq.
7	<b>.</b>	Email: moncurm@ballardspahr.com
8	EMC Corporation	c/o Receivable Management Services
9	Ente corporation	Steven Sass, Esq.
9		Email: steven.sass@rmsna.com
10		Ronald Rowland, Esq.
		Email: Ronald.rowland@rmsna.com
11	Olin Corporation	S. Christian Mullgardt
12	•	Email: scmullgardt@olin.com
13		
14	<u>VIA U.S. MAIL:</u>	
	Jeffrey C. Wisler, Esq.	
15	Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP	
16	1007 North Orange Street	
	Wilmington, DE 19899	
17	County of Loudoun Virginia	
18	Belkys Escobar	
19	1 Harrison St., S.E. 5th Fl. Leesburg, VA 20175-3102	
	C.	
20	Guy Davis Protiviti Inc.	
21	1051 East Cary Street, Suite 602	
22	Richmond, VA 23219	
	George E. Shoup, III	
23	Development Specialists, inc.	
24	6375 Riverside Drive, Suite 200 Dublin, OH 43017-5373	
25	,	
	Kyle Everett Development Specialists, Inc.	
26	235 Pine Street, Suite 1150	
	San Francisco, CA 94104	

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Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2208 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 02:23:09 Page 12
off 11129

# **EXHIBIT B**

1	DIAMOND McCARTHY LLP		
2	Christopher R. Murray (pro hac vice) Michael Fishel, Esq. (pro hac vice)		
3	909 Fannin, 15th Floor Houston, TX 77010		
4	Telephone: 713-333-5100 Facsimile: 713-333-5199		
5	cmurray@diamondmccarthy.com mfishel@diamondmccarthy.com		
6	Counsel for Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee for Howrey LLP		
7	KORNFIELD, NYBERG, BENDES & KU	IIHNFR I	
	Eric A. Nyberg, Esq. (Bar No. 131105) Chris D. Kuhner, Esq. (Bar No. 173291)	OIIIVEIX, I	
8	1970 Broadway, Suite 225		
9	Oakland, CA 94612 Telephone: 510-763-1000		
10	Facsimile: 510-273-8669  Local Counsel for Allan B. Diamond,		
11	Chapter 11 Trustee for Howrey LLP		
12	UNITED STATES		
13	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION		
14	In re	)	Case No. 11-31376 DM Chapter 11
15		)	Hon. Dennis Montali
16	HOWREY LLP,	)	
17	Debtor.	)	FIRST OMNIBUS MOTION FOR AUTHORITY UNDER BANKRUPTCY RULE 9019 TO ENTER INTO
18		)	MULTIPLE SETTLEMENTS WITH FORMER HOWREY PARTNERS
19		)	
20	TO THE HONORABLE DENNIS MONTA	ALI, UNITI	ED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE:
21	Allan B. Diamond, the chapter 11	trustee ('	"Trustee") of the estate of Howrey LLP
22	("Howrey" or "Debtor") seeks authority un	nder Federa	al Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9019 for
23	authority to settle claims pursuant to agreem	nents with o	certain former Howrey partners.
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### RELIEF SOUGHT

- 1. The Trustee's declaration in support of this motion appears at **Exhibit A**. The Trustee's declaration is incorporated by reference as if set forth fully in the text of this motion.
  - 2. The Trustee seek this Court's approval of the following settlements:
    - a. Katherine Basile, agreement at Exhibit B;
    - b. Joachim Feldges, agreement at Exhibit C;
    - c. Leigh Kirmsse, agreement at Exhibit D;
    - d. Peter Tracey, agreement at Exhibit E;
    - e. Ben Davidson and the Davidson Law Group, agreement at **Exhibit F**;
    - f. Ethan Litwin, agreement at **Exhibit G**;
    - g. Barbara Werther, agreement at Exhibit H;
    - h. Jessica Breitbeil, agreement at **Exhibit I**;
    - i. Frank Cote, agreement at **Exhibit J**;
    - j. Brent Allen, agreement at **Exhibit K**;
    - k. Gary Fischman, agreement at **Exhibit L**;
    - 1. Jeffrey Lenser, agreement at **Exhibit M**;
    - m. Todd McLawhorn, agreement at Exhibit N; and
    - n. Kenneth Donnelly, agreement as **Exhibit O.**
- 3. Each of these agreements was negotiated separately. The settlements are offered together in this omnibus motion for administrative efficiency, but each settlement is offered on its own merits, and none is contingent on Court approval of any of the other settlements.
- 4. If approved, the settlements would collectively release claims against the Howrey estate of \$420,807, of which \$34,725 constitute alleged priority wage claims; release all other

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claims against the Howrey estate held by the releasing parties but not included in filed proofs of claim; and cash payments to the Howrey estate of \$139,862.

#### **JURISDICTION**

5. The Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1334(a) and (b). This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b) (2). The parties to each settlement consent to this Court's jurisdiction. *See* Ex. B ¶ 13; Ex. C ¶ 12; Ex. D ¶ 12; Ex. E ¶ 13; Ex. F ¶ 14; Ex. G ¶ 13; Ex. H ¶ 15; Ex. I ¶ 13; Ex. J ¶ 13; Ex. K ¶ 13; Ex. L. ¶ 13; Ex. M ¶ 13; Ex. N ¶ 13; and O ¶ 13.

#### **BACKGROUND**

### Howrey Bankruptcy

- 6. Prior to entering bankruptcy, Howrey was a major international law firm.
- 7. On April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed a chapter 7 involuntary petition against the Debtor. On June 6, 2011, the Court entered an order converting the above captioned case to a case under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 8. On September 22, 2011, the Court entered an order granting a motion to appoint a chapter 11 trustee. On October 7, 2011, the U.S. Trustee for the Northern District of California appointed the Trustee as chapter 11 trustee for the estate of Howrey. On October 12, 2011, the Court entered an order approving the appointment of the Trustee.

#### The Trustee's Claims Against the Settling Parties

- 9. The Trustee's claims against the settling parties fall into three categories:
- a. <u>Clawback Claims</u>. Howrey made distributions to partners during the time period that the Trustee alleges that Howrey was insolvent. These distributions included both bonuses paid to certain partners and payments in return of capital contributions. The Trustee asserts that these distributions are avoidable as fraudulent transfers under both the Bankruptcy

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unfinished business claims is the Davidson settlement.

involves tax reimbursement claims is the Feldges settlement.

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Code (section 548) and under District of Columbia law (through Bankruptcy Code section 544)

and that the amounts distributed are recoverable under Bankruptcy Code section 550. Former

partners have raised several defenses to these clawback claims. In the case of regular draws and

bonuses, some former partners argue that payments were not equity distributions but were

instead salary paid for legal services provided. Some former partners allege a contractual

entitlement to some of the payments. With respect to payments in return of capital contributions,

some payments were made directly to financial institutions to repay loans the partners took to

fund their capital contributions. Some partners allege that repayment of those loans relieved

Howrey of potential guarantor liability on those loans. If successful, any of these arguments by

former partners might establish reasonably equivalent value for the transfers and prevent the

for profits on unfinished business received by former partners for their work on client matters

that were open at the time those partners left Howrey. These claims arise under Jewel v. Boxer,

156 Cal. App. 3d 171 (1984) and its progeny. The only settlement that includes a release of

regulations issued by the US Department of the Treasury pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code,

paid the U.S. income tax obligations of certain former Howrey partners who reside abroad. The

Trustee is seeking full reimbursement of those payments. The only settlement in this motion that

Unfinished Business Claims. The Trustee asserts a right to an accounting

Tax Reimbursement Claims. The Trustee, as required by federal law and

Trustee's recovery. The Trustee asserts clawback claims against all of the settling parties.

## Negotiations with the Settling Attorneys

10. The Trustee's counsel negotiated at arms-length well over a year with the settling parties. While some of the settling parties are represented by counsel, others negotiated the settlements on their own behalf directly with Trustee's counsel.

## Background and Terms of Each Settlement

- 11. <u>Basile</u>. Katherine Basile was a Howrey partner. During the period the Trustee alleges that Howrey was insolvent, she received certain distributions that the Trustee alleges are subject to avoidance and recovery as fraudulent transfers. Basile disputes the Trustee's claims. The Trustee initiated litigation on these claims in *Diamond v. Basile*, No. 14-3081-DM (Bankr. N.D. Cal.), which is pending in this Court. The Trustee's counsel negotiated with Basile directly over a five-month period regarding these claims. Under the proposed settlement, Basile would pay the estate \$3,000 and would release any potential claims she may have against the estate, and the Trustee would dismiss with prejudice his adversary proceeding against her.
- 12. <u>Feldges</u>. Joachim Feldges was a Howrey partner and resides abroad. The Trustee paid \$3,313 to the IRS on account of Feldges U.S. income tax liability, as required by federal law. The Trustee also asserts clawback claims for distributions paid to Feldges during the time period that the Trustee alleges Howrey was insolvent. The Trustee's counsel negotiated directly with Feldges for approximately three months. Under the proposed settlement, Feldges would pay the estate \$40,000 and release any potential claims he may have against the estate.
- 13. <u>Kirmsse</u>. Leigh Kirmsse was a Howrey partner who filed proof of claim #1059 against the estate for \$70,281, of which \$11,725 is an alleged priority wage claim. The Trustee asserts clawback claims for distributions that Kirmsse received during a period when the Trustee alleges that Howrey was insolvent. The Trustee's counsel negotiated with counsel to Kirmsse, who informed the Trustee of a medical condition that prevents Kirmsse from gainful

employment, which would prevent the Trustee from collecting on any judgment. Under the proposed settlement, Kirmsse would release claim #1059 and any other claims against the estate.

- 14. <u>Tracey</u>. Peter Tracey was a Howrey partner. The Trustee asserts clawback claims against him. The Trustee's counsel negotiated directly with Tracey at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Tracey would pay the estate \$2,000 and release any other claims against the Howrey estate.
- Davidson. Ben Davidson was a former Howrey partner and is now affiliated with the Davidson Law Group. Davidson filed proof of claim #659 against the estate for \$93,000, of which \$11,725 is an alleged priority wage claim. The Trustee asserts both clawback claims for distributions in return of capital and unfinished business claims for client matters that Davidson took with him to his new firm upon dissociating from Howrey. The Trustee initiated litigation on these claims in *Diamond v. Davidson Law Group*, No. 14-3039-DM (Bankr. N.D. Cal.), which is pending in this Court. The Trustee's counsel negotiated for several months directly with Davidson, who disclosed aspects related to his and his law firm's financial condition that reflect negatively on the Trustee's ability to collect on any significant judgment amount. Under the proposed settlement, Davidson would release his proof of claim, he and his law firm would release any other claims against the estate, Davidson would pay \$5,000, and the Trustee would dismiss the adversary case against Davidson and the Davidson Law Group.
- 16. <u>Litwin</u>. Ethan Litwin was a Howrey partner. The Trustee asserts clawback claims against him. The Trustee's counsel negotiated directly with Litwin at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Litwin would pay the estate \$2,100 and release any claims against the Howrey estate.
- 17. <u>Werther</u>. Barbara Werther was a Howrey partner. The Trustee asserts clawback claims and claims related to a goodwill purchase agreement she entered into with Howrey. The

Trustee's counsel negotiated with Werther's counsel at arm's length over a period of months. While the parties were unable to agree to a global resolution of all claims between them, they did reach a proposed settlement related to the clawback claims, under which Werther would pay the estate \$69,700, and the estate would preserve all claims on the goodwill purchase agreement.

- 18. <u>Breitbeil</u>. Jessica Breitbeil was a Howrey partner. The Trustee asserts clawback claims based on payments made to her in return of capital. The Trustee's counsel negotiated with Breitbeil's counsel at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Breitbeil would pay the estate \$3,500 and release any claims against the Howrey estate.
- 19. <u>Cote</u>. Frank Cote was a Howrey partner. The Trustee asserts clawback claims against him. The Trustee's counsel negotiated directly with Cote at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Cote would pay the estate \$1,469 and release any claims against the Howrey estate.
- 20. <u>Allen</u>. Brent Allen was a Howrey partner. The Trustee asserts clawback claims against him. The Trustee's counsel negotiated directly with Allen at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Allen would pay the estate \$1,500 and release any claims against the Howrey estate.
- 21. <u>Fischman</u>. Gary Fischman was a Howrey partner who filed proof of claim #579-1 against the estate for \$198,896.73, of which \$11,725 is an alleged priority wage claim. The Trustee asserts clawback claims against him. The Trustee's counsel negotiated directly with Fischman at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Fischman would pay the estate \$1,688 and release claim #579-1 and any other claims against the estate.
- 22. <u>Lenser</u>. Jeffrey Lenser was a Howrey partner who filed proof of claim #718-1 against the estate for \$58,628.61. The Trustee asserts clawback claims against him based on payments in return of capital and other distributions received. The Trustee's counsel negotiated

directly with Lenser at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Lenser would pay the estate \$7,000 and release claim #718-1 and any other claims against the estate.

- 23. <u>McLawhorn</u>. Todd McLawhorn was a Howrey partner. The Trustee asserts clawback claims against him based on payments in return of capital. The Trustee's counsel negotiated directly with McLawhorn at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, McLawhorn would pay \$1,305 and release any claims against the Howrey estate.c
- 24. <u>Donnelly</u>. Kenneth Donnelly was a Howrey partner. The Trustee asserts clawback claims against him based on payments in return of capital. The Trustee's counsel negotiated directly with Donnelly at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Donnelly would pay \$1,600 and release any claims against the Howrey estate.
- 25. For the reasons discussed below, the Trustee submit that each of the proposed settlements falls within the range of reasonableness, is in the best interests of the estate, and is a fair and equitable transactions to all parties and for the benefit of creditors.

# BASIS FOR RELIEF AND APPLICABLE AUTHORITY

26. The Trustee seeks authority to enter into this settlement under Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9019(a). Each of the proposed settlements falls squarely within the reasonable business judgment of the Trustee and satisfies the requirements of Rule 9019.

# Compromise under Bankruptcy Rule 9019(a)

- 27. Bankruptcy Rule 9019(a) authorizes the Court "[o]n motion by the trustee and after notice and a hearing, [to] approve a compromise or settlement."
- 28. "The bankruptcy court has 'great latitude' in approving compromise agreements." Woodson v. Fireman's Insurance, Co. (In re Woodson), 839 F.2d 610, 620 (9th Cir. 1988). "[T]he law favors compromise and not litigation for its own sake." See Port O'Call Investment Co. v. Blair (In re Blair), 538 F.2d 849, 851 (9th Cir. 1976). Rule 9019 empowers bankruptcy

courts to approve compromises and settlements that are "fair and equitable" and "in the best interest of the estate." *Martin v. Kane (In re A & C Properties)*, 784 F.2d 1377, 1381 (9th Cir. 1986), *cert. denied sub nom. Martin v. Robinson*, 479 U.S. 854 (1986).

- 29. The Ninth Circuit has identified four factors to consider in evaluating the reasonableness of a proposed settlement under Rule 9019: "(a) [t]he probability of success in the litigation; (b) the difficulties, if any, to be encountered in the matter of collection; (c) the complexity of the litigation involved, and the expense, inconvenience and delay necessarily attending it; [and] (d) the paramount interest of the creditors and a proper deference to their reasonable views in the premises." *In re A & C Properties*, 784 F.3d at 1381.
- 30. The Trustee and the Committee have the burden of persuasion, but "a court generally gives deference to a trustee's business judgment in deciding whether to settle a matter," *In re Mickey Thompson, Entertainment Group, Inc.*, 292 B.R. 415, 420 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2003).
- 31. Here, as discussed below and in the Trustee's declaration, the Trustee has determined in the exercise of his business judgment that the proposed Settlement is fair and reasonable within the standards discussed above; that it is in the best interests of the estate.
- 32. The Trustee's "fair and equitable" determination is based on his analysis of the four factors outlined in *A&C Properties*.
- 33. Factor 1: <u>Litigation Risk</u>. The Trustee believes he has strong claims against the settling defendants. However, these claims are not without risk. On the clawback claims, the Trustee may fail to establish insolvency during the relevant time periods. The Trustee may also fail to establish that the distributions were, in fact, equity distributions, and were not compensation for which reasonably equivalent value was provided. On the unfinished business claims, there is risk that the appellate courts will determine that the *Jewel* doctrine does not apply

in the context of the Trustee's claims here. That precise conclusion was reached this week in a published decision by US District Court Judge James Donato in the consolidated appeals of certain law firm defendants in *Hogan Lovells US LLP v. Howrey LLP*, Case No. 14-cv-04889-JD (N.D. Cal.). This issue likely will not be resolved for some time in the future depending upon rulings from the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and, potentially, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and is therefore an uncertain outcome.

- 34. Factor 2: <u>Collections Risk</u>. In the Trustee's experience, litigation against private individuals invariably involves some degree of collections risk for a judgment of any substantial amount. In addition, some individual defendants here, Kirmsse and Davidson have extenuating circumstances that add additional collections risk, which factor into the Trustee's determination of what settlement amount is reasonable in his business judgment. Finally, in the case of defendants who reside abroad here, Feldges collections risk includes potential hurdles in enforcing the judgment of a US court in a foreign jurisdiction.
- 35. Factor 3: <u>Litigation Cost</u>. Litigation of these cases would be costly and time consuming. On the clawback claims, litigation will require expert testimony on insolvency, which adds a layer of cost to an already complex area of law. The contract and *Jewel* claims will also require extensive and costly discovery, including of former partners and documents related to client engagements and relationships. Litigation in this area is also highly contentious, given that the defendants are generally private individual attorneys with personal and emotional investments in the outcome. This factor weighs very heavily in favor of compromise.
- 36. Factor 4: <u>Creditor Interest</u>. The Trustee seeks to avoid the costs and delays of litigation. Closing these settlements would provide an immediate and significant financial benefit to the estate, not only in terms of saved professional fees, but also from the cash payments and claims releases under the individual agreements.

1	37. In light of the A&C Properties factors and the substantial deference afforded to
2	the Trustee's business judgment, the Court should approve each of the proposed settlements.
3	RESERVATION OF RIGHTS
4	38. The Trustee reserves all rights to prosecute all available claims against, including
5	objections to all claims against the estate of, any settling party whose settlement is not approved.
6	Nothing in this motion or in the individual settlements waives any claims, objections or defenses
7	as between the Debtor's estate and any party other than the parties to each settlement.
8	<u>CONCLUSION</u>
9	For these reasons, the Trustee and Committee respectfully request that the Court grant the
10	Motion.
11	Dated: June 4, 2015 DIAMOND McCARTHY LLP
12	
13	<u>/s/ Michael Fishel</u> Christopher R. Murray <i>(pro hac vice)</i>
	Michael Fishel, Esq. (pro hac vice)
14	909 Fannin, 15th Floor Houston, TX 77010
15	Telephone: 713-333-5100
16	Facsimile: 713-333-5199 cmurray@diamondmccarthy.com
16	mfishel@diamondmccarthy.com
17	
18	Counsel for Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee for Howrey LLP
10	Chapter 11 Trustee for 110 weey 1111
19	KORNFIELD, NYBERG, BENDES &KUHNER, P.C.
20	Eric A. Nyberg, Esq. (Bar No. 131105)
21	Chris D. Kuhner, Esq. (Bar No. 173291) 1970 Broadway, Suite 225
22	Oakland, CA 94612 Telephone: 510-763-1000
22	Facsimile: 510-273-8669
23	Local Counsel for Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee for Howrey LLP
24	Chapter 11 Trustee for Howrey LLI

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Filed: 06/26/15 off12119 Entered: 06/06/15 02:20:08 Page 27

1	NOTICE OF SERVICE
2 3	X (CM/ECF) The document was electronically served on the parties to this action via the mandatory United States Bankruptcy Court of California CM/ECF system upon filing of above described document:
4	SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST
5	<u>X</u> (ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICE) By electronic mail (e-mail) the above listed
6	document(s) without error to the email address(es) set forth below on this date:
7	SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST
8	X (UNITED STATES MAIL) By depositing a copy of the above-referenced documents for mailing in the United States Mail, first class postage prepaid, at Houston, Texas, to the parties listed, at their last known mailing addresses, on this date:
9	SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST
10	
11 12	(OVERNIGHT COURIER) By depositing a true and correct copy of the above referenced document for overnight delivery via Federal Express, at a collection facility maintained for such purpose, addressed to the parties on the attached service list, at their last known delivery address, on the date above written.
	mio vii deli very dadicess, eli me date de eve virittelli.
13 14	(COURIER SERVICE) By providing true and correct copies of the above referenced documents [with copies of the supporting detailed invoices/attorney time records for the Final Fee Application] via courier delivery, to the following on or about:
1.5	
15 16	(FACSIMILE) That I served a true and correct copy of the above-referenced document via facsimile, to the facsimile numbers indicated, to those people listed on the attached service list,
17	on the date above written.
18	/s/ Michael Fishel
19	Michael Fishel
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23	
24	

Filed: 06/26/15 off1219 Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2203 Entered: 06/06/15 02:20:08 Page 28

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1	VIA CM/ECF:	
2	<b>United States Trustee</b>	Minnie Loo, Esq.
2		Donna S. Tamanaha, Esq. Office of the U.S. Trustee
3		235 Pine Street. 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor
4		San Francisco, CA 94104-3484
_		Email: Minnie.Loo@usdoj.gov
5		Email: <u>Donna.S.Tamanaha@usdoj.gov</u> Email: <u>USTPRegion17.SF.ECF@usdoj.gov</u>
6		Email: ltroxas@hotmail.com
7	Chapter 11 Trustee	Allan B. Diamond
0		Diamond McCarthy, LLP
8		Two Houston Center
9		909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
		Houston, Texas 77010  Email: adiamond@diamondmccarthy.com
10		Email. autumona@atumonameeartity.com
11	Counsel for the Chapter 11 Trustee	Diamond McCarthy, LLP
11		Howard D. Ressler, Esq.
12		Email: hressler@diamondmccarthy.com
1.2		Stephen T. Loden, Esq.  Email: sloden@diamondmccarthy.com
13		Jason M. Rudd, Esq.
14		Email: jrudd@diamondmccarthy.com
		Christopher R. Murray, Esq.
15		Email: cmurray@diamondmccarthy.com
16		Kornfield Nyberg Bender & Kuhner P.C.
17		Eric Nyberg  Email: e.nyberg@kornfieldlaw.com
		Chris D. Kuhner
18		Email: c.kuhner@kornfieldlaw.com
19	Debtor's Counsel	Murray & Murray
20		Robert A. Franklin
		Craig M. Prim
21		Jenny Lynn Fountain <b>Email</b> : <u>rfranklin@murraylaw.com</u>
22		Email: cprim@murraylaw.com
		Email: jfountain@murraylaw.com
23		Joel D. Adler
24		Email: jadler@adlerlaw.net
25	Duane Morris LLP	Geoffrey A. Heaton, Esq.
26		Email: gheaton@duanemorris.com
26		Aron M. Oiner, Esq.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE—PAGE 13 313069

Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2203 Filed: 06/06/15 Entered: 06/06/15 02:20:08 Page 29 off1219

1		Email: roliner@duanemorris.com
2	Law Offices of Latham & Watkins	Kimberly A. Posin, Esq.
3		Email: <u>kim.posin@lw.com</u> Email: <u>colleen.greenwood@lw.com</u>
3		
4	Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors	Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLP Bradford F. Englander, Esq.
5		Email: benglander@wtplaw.com
6		John F. Carlton, Esq.  Email: jcarlton@wtplaw.com
7		Justin P. Fasano, Esq.
		Email: jfasano@wtplaw.com
8	Counsel for The Irvine Company, LLC	Allen Matkins, et al.
9		Email: <a href="mgreger@allenmatkins.com">mgreger@allenmatkins.com</a> Email: <a href="mgreyevgusher">krodriguez@allenmatkins.com</a>
10	Counsel for Creditor Citibank, N.A.	Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison
11	Counsel for Cicultor Citibank, IV.A.	Kelley A. Cornish, Esq.
		Email: <u>kcornish@paulweiss.com</u>
12		McNutt Law Group, LLP
13		Scott H. McNutt, Esq.
14		Email: <u>smcnutt@ml-sf.com</u>
15	Counsel for Creditor Protiviti, Inc.	Pachulski, Stang, Ziehl & Jones
13		John D. Fiero, Esq. <i>Email: jfiero@pszjlaw.com</i>
16		Email: ksuk@pszjlaw.com
17		Email: ocarpio@pszjlaw.com
18	Counsel for Creditor Oracle America, Inc.	Buchalter Nemer
19	Counsel for Creditor Oracle America, Inc.	Shawn M. Christianson, Esq.
		Email: schristianson@buchalter.com
20	Counsel for Creditor U.S. Bank, N.A.,	Perkins Coie LLP
21	as Trustee	David J. Gold, Esq.  Email: dgold@perkinscoie.com
22		Gabriel Liao, Esq.
		Email: gliao@perkinscoie.com
23	Counsel for Attorneys' Liability Assurance	Perkins Coie LLP
24	Society, Inc., A Risk Retention Group	Alan D. Smith, Esq. <i>Email:</i> adsmith@perkinscoie.com
25		<b>Linuu.</b> <u>aasmun(aperkinscote.com</u>

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE—PAGE 14 313069

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Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2203 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 02:20:08 Page 30 off 1219

1	Counsel for BP/CGCENTER I, LLC	Allen, Matkins, Leck, Gamble and Mallor William W. Huckins
2		Email: whuckins@allenmatkins.com
3	Counsel for Creditor Warner Investment, L.P.	McKenna Long and Aldridge LLP Gregg S. Kleiner, Esq.
4		Email: gkleiner@mckennalong.com Michael A. Isaacs, Esq.
5		Email: misaacs@mckennalong.com Email: aworthing@mckennalong.com
7	Counsel for Creditor Iron Mountain Information Management Inc.	<b>Bartlett, Hackett and Feinberg</b> Frank F. McGinn, Esq.
8	information Wanagement Inc.	Email: ffm@bostonbusinesslaw.com
9	Counsel for Creditor Hines REIT 321	DLA Piper LLP
10	North Clark Street, LLC	Frank T. Pepler, Esq.  Email: frank.pepler@dlapiper.com
11	Counsel for Creditor Stephanie Langley	Outten and Golden LLP
12		Rene S. Roupinian, Esq.  Email: rst@outtengolden.com
13		Email: jxh@outtengolden.com
14		Law Offices of James D. Wood James D. Wood, Esq.
15		Email: jdw@jdwoodlaw.com
16	Counsel for Creditor Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp.	Office of the Chief Counsel John Holland Ginsberg, Esq.
17		Email: ginsberg.john@pbgc.gov
18	Counsel for Interested Party Connecticut General Life Insurance Company	Schnader Harrison Segal and Lewis Melissa Lor, Esq.
19		Email: MLor@Schnader.com
20	Counsel for Creditor Knickerbocker Properties, Inc. XXXIII	Seyfarth Shaw LLP Scott Olson, Esq.
21	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Email: solson@seyfarth.com
22	Counsel for Creditor Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts	<b>Bankruptcy &amp; Collections Division</b> Kimberly Walsh, Esq.
23	or a done recounts	Email: bk-kwalsh@oag.state.tx.us
24	Counsel for Creditor 200 S. Main Street Investors, LLC	<b>Ballard Spahr Andrews and Ingersoll</b> Rebecca J. Winthrop, Esq.
25	investors, Lie	Email: WinthropR@ballardspahr.com
26		Penny M. Costa, Esq. Email: costap@ballardspahr.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE—PAGE 15

313069

Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2203 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 02:20:08 Page 35 off1219

1	Counsel for Creditor Citibank, N.A.	Peitzman Weg LLP
2		Larry Peitzman, Esq.
3		Email: lpeitzman@peitzmanweg.com
5	Counsel for Jones Day	Jones Day
4	<b>And Jones Day Former Partners</b>	Robert A. Trodella
5		<i>Email</i> : <u>rtrodella@jonesday.com</u> Brian D. McDonald
3		Email: <u>bdmcdonald@jonesday.com</u>
6		
7	Counsel for Harris County	Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson LLP
/		John P. Dillman  Email: houston_bankruptcy@lgbs.com
8		Email: houston_bankruptcy@igos.com
9	Counsel for Informal Group of Certain	Dumas & Clark LLP
	Former Howrey Attorneys and Defendant	Robert E. Clark
10	Unum Life Insurance Company of America	Email: robert.clark@dumasclark.com
11	Counsel for SAP America, Inc.	Cooper White & Cooper LLP
11	,	Peter C. Califano
12		Email: pcalifano@cwclaw.com
13	Counsel for SAP America, Inc.	Brown & Connery LLP
13	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Donald K. Ludman, Esq.
14		Email: <u>dludman@brownconnery.com</u>
15	Counsel for McKenna Long and Aldridge	Michael A. Isaacs, Esq.
10	Counsel for Mercenna Long and Multiage	Email: misaacs@mckennalong.com
16		aworthing@mckennalong.com
17	Council for Joffrey M. Judd	Indd I aw Cyann
	Counsel for Jeffrey M. Judd	<b>Judd Law Group</b> Jeffrey M. Judd, Esq.
18		Email: jeff@juddlawgroup.com
19		melanie@juddlawgroup.com
	Counsel for Cooper US, Inc.	Cooper Industries, Inc.
20	Counsel for Cooper OS, file.	Paula Beck Whitten, Esq.
21		Email: paula.whitten@cooperindustries.com
22	Counsel for Neal Gerber & Eisenberg LLP	Hanson Bridgett LLP
23	Counsel for Acar Gerber & Elsenberg Elli	Nancy J. Newman
		Email: nnewman@hansonbridgett.com
24	Council for Defendant Valle Combine Lor	Duth Elin Angelesch Ess
25	Counsel for Defendant Kelly Services, Inc.	Ruth Elin Auerbach, Esq.  Email: attorneyruth@sbcglobaln.net
26	Counsel for Creditor Rami Dalal	Teresa A. Blasberg, Esq.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE—PAGE 16 313069

Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2203 Filed: 06/06/15 Entered: 06/06/15 02:20:08 Page 30 off1219

1		Email: tablasberg@earthlink.net
2	Counsel for Defendant Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP	Richard W. Brunette, Esq.  Email: rbrunette@sheppardmullin.com
3		Email: rryland@sheppardmullin.com
4	Counsel for Defendant Barbara G. Werther	Louis J. Cisz, III, Esq.
5		Email: <u>lcisz@nixonpeabody.com</u>
6	Counsel for Defendant Davidson Law Group,	Robert E. Clark, Esq.
7	Ralls & Niece LLP, Ropes & Gray LLP, Ben Davidson, Geert Goeteyn, John W. Ralls,	Email: robert.clark@dumasclark.com
8	Stephen Mavroghenis, Informal Group of Certain Former Howrey Attorneys, and Teresa Corbin	
9	Counsel for Defendant Recommind, Inc.	Patrick M. Costello, Esq.
10		Email: pcostello@vectislawgroup.com Email: clee@vectislawgroup.com
11	Counsel for Defendant Hogan Lovells US LLP	Diana D. DiGennaro, Esq.
12	Reed Smith LLP	Email: diana.digennaro@aporter.com
13		<i>Email: jhoskins@howardrice.com</i> Jonathan Hughes, Esq.
14		Email: jonathan.hughes@aporter.com Email: joanne.caruso@aporter.com
		Pamela Phillips, Esq.
15		Email: pamela.phillips@aporter.com Email: sfcalendar@aporter.com
16		
17	Counsel for Defendant James R Batchelder,	G. Larry Engel, Esq.
18	And Interested Party Certain Former Partners Partners of Day Casebeer Madrid & Batchelder LLI	Email: <u>lengel@mofo.com</u> P Vincent J. Novak
19		Email: vnovak@mofo.com Email: jkline@mofo.com
20		
21	Counsel for Defendant Baker Hughes Incorporated	Gregg M. Ficks, Esq.  Email: gficks@coblentzlaw.com
	Counsel for Defendant Medco Health Solutions, Inc.	<u> </u>
22	Counsel for Defendant Medeo Health Solutions, Inc.	Email: mijams@curtislegalgroup.com
23		Email: achristensen@curtislegalgroup.com
24	Counsel for Defendant Legal Placements, Inc. And Lexolution, LLC	Bruce H. Jackson, Esq.  Email: bruce.jackson@bakermckenzie.com
25	Time Deadition, Diffe	Email:
26		christine.vonseeburg@bakermckenzie.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE—PAGE 17 313069

Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2203 Filed: 06/06/15 Entered: 06/06/15 02:20:08 Page 33 off1219

1	Counsel for Defendant Ceridian Benefit Services, Inc.	Ori Katz, Esq <i>Email: okatz@sheppardmullins.com</i>
2	Counsel for Defendant Kilpatrick Townsend	Louise E. Ma, Esq.
3	& Stockton LLP	Email: <a href="mailto:lma@kilpatricktownsend.com">lma@kilpatricktownsend.com</a> Email: <a href="mailto:sbaker-lehne@kilpatricktownsend.com">sbaker-lehne@kilpatricktownsend.com</a>
4	Counsel for Interested Party Ad Hoc Committee	John H. MacConaghy, Esq.
5	Of Certain Former Howrey Partners	Email: macclaw@macbarlaw.com
6		Email: <a href="mailto:smansour@macbarlaw.com">smansour@macbarlaw.com</a> Email: <a href="mailto:smansour@macbarlaw.com">smansour@macbarlaw.com</a>
7		
8	Counsel for Defendant Hunton & Williams LLP	Matthew A. Mannering, Esq.  Email: mmannering@hunton.com
9		Email: lgodfrey@hunton.com
10	Counsel for Defendant Bunsow De Mory Smith & Allison LLP	Randy Michelson, Esq. <i>Email:</i>
11		randy.michelson@michelsonlawgroup.com
12	Counsel for Defendant Venable LLP	Jennifer L. Nassiri, Esq.
13		Email: jnassiri@venable.com
14	Counsel for Defendant TSG Reporting, Inc. & Stockton LLP	Howard S. Nevins, Esq.  Email: hnevins@hsmlaw.com
15		Email: lsamosa@hsmlaw.com
	Counsel for Defendant Intelligent Management	Valerie Banter Peo, Esq.
16	Solutions, I	Email: vpeo@schnader.com Email: mpadilla@schnader.com
17	Counsel for Defendant Cornerstone Research, Inc.	Steven G. Polard, Esq.
18	,	Email: stevenpolard@dwt.com Email: melissawells@dwt.com
19		<u></u>
20	Counsel for Defendants Joseph Albanese & Associates, Inc., Stemcell Technologies, Inc.,	Scott A. Schiff, Esq.  Email: sas@soukup-schiff.com
21	and Leigh Kirmsse	
22	Counsel for Defendant SJ Berwin LLP, and	Charles M. Tatelbaum, Esq.
23	Defendant Michael Knospe,	Email: ctatelbaum@hinshawlaw.com Email: csmith@hinshawlaw.com
24	Counsel for Defendant Haynes and Boone, LLP	Alan R. Wechsler, Esq.
25		Email: <u>alan.wechsler@haynesboone.com</u> Christopher Maciel, Esq.
26		Email: <u>chris.maciel@haynesboone.com</u>

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE—PAGE 18 313069

Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2203 Filed: 06/06/15 Entered: 06/06/15 02:20:08 Page 38 off1219

1	Counsel for Defendant Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman LLP	Margaret Ziemianek, Esq. Email: mziemianek@kasowitz.com
2		Email: courtnotices@kasowitz.com
3	Counsel for SJ Berwin LLP	Drodlay M. Zamazuk, Esa
4	Counsel for SJ Del will LLI	Bradley M. Zamczyk, Esq.  Email: bzamczyk@hinshawlaw.com
5		Email: <u>crossi@hinshawlaw.com</u>
6	Counsel for Watt Companies	Dustin P. Branch, Esq.  Email: dustin.branch@kattenlaw.com
7	Counsel for Pillsbury Winthrop	George Allen Brandt, Esq.
8	Shaw Pittman LLP	Email: <u>allen.brandt@pillsburylaw.com</u>
9		Ana N. Damonte, Esq. Email: <u>ana.damonte@lehighhanson.com</u>
10	Counsel for Creditor Verizon Communications	Dennis D. Davis, Esq.
		Email: <u>jrose@gsdllaw.com</u>
11	Counsel for Davis & Hosfield Consulting	Michael Delaney, Esq.
12		Email: <u>mdelaney@bakerlaw.com</u> Clinton J. McCord, Esq.
13		Email: <u>cmccord@edwardswildman.com</u>
14	Counsel for Seyfarth Shaw LLP	Marianne M. Dickson, Esq. Email: mdickson@seyfarth.com
15		M. Ryan Pinkston, Esq.
16		Email: rpinkston@seyfarth.com
17	Counsel for Perkins Coie LLP	Judith B. Gitterman, Esq.  Email: jgitterman@perkinscoie.com
18		Jeffrey S. Goodfried, Esq.  Email: <u>igoodfried@perkinscoie.com</u>
19	Counsel for Vestigant, LLC	Walter W. Gouldsbury, III, Esq.
20	Counsel for Vestigant, LLC	Email: wwg@jmbm.com
21	Counsel for Andrew Reidy	Miriam E. Hiser, Esq.
22		Email: <u>mhiser@hiserlaw.com</u>
	Counsel for Salter & Company PLLC	Ivo Keller, Esq.  Email: ikeller@buchalter.com
23		
24	Counsel for Stemcell Technologies, Inc.	Richard A. Lapping, Esq. Email: <u>Richard@lappinglegal.com</u>
25	Counsel for Katherine M. Basile	Monika P. Lee, Esq.
26		Email: monikalee@leelawllp.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE—PAGE 19 313069

Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2203 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 02:20:08 Page 39 off 1219

1 **Counsel for Thomson Reuters, Inc.** Issa K. Moe, Esq. Email: issa.moe@lawmoss.com 2 Counsel for IKON Office Solutions, Inc. Christopher O. Rivas, Esq. 3 Email: crivas@reedsmith.com 4 Counsel for Shearman & Sterling LLP Steven E. Sherman, Esq. 5 Email: sesherman@shearman.com 6 Counsel for Baker Hughes Inc. Ross Spence, Esq. Email: rossspence@snowfogel.com 7 VIA EMAIL: 8 Counsel for Creditor Citibank, N.A. Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison 9 Kelley A. Cornish, Esq. Email: kcornish@paulweiss.com 10 Diane Meyers, Esq. Email:dmevers@paulweiss.com 11 Jacob J. Adlerstein, Esq. Email: jadlerstein@paulweiss.com 12 ayoung@paulweiss.com 13 **Ballard Spahr LLP** Matthew Moncur, Esq. 14 Email: moncurm@ballardspahr.com 15 **EMC Corporation** c/o Receivable Management Services Steven Sass, Esq. 16 *Email*: steven.sass@rmsna.com Ronald Rowland, Esq. 17 Email: Ronald.rowland@rmsna.com 18 **Olin Corporation** S. Christian Mullgardt Email: scmullgardt@olin.com 19 20 VIA U.S. MAIL: 21 Jeffrey C. Wisler, Esq. Connolly Bove Lodge & Hutz LLP 22 1007 North Orange Street Wilmington, DE 19899 23 County of Loudoun Virginia 24 Belkys Escobar 25 1 Harrison St., S.E. 5th Fl. Leesburg, VA 20175-3102 26

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE—PAGE 20

Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2203 Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 02:20:08 Page 26 off 1219

1	Guy Davis Protiviti Inc.	
2 3 4	1051 East Cary Street, Suite 602 Richmond, VA 23219	
3	George E. Shoup, III	
	Development Specialists, inc.	
5	6375 Riverside Drive, Suite 200 Dublin, OH 43017-5373	
6	Kyle Everett	
7	Development Specialists, Inc. 235 Pine Street, Suite 1150	
8	San Francisco, CA 94104	
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE—PAGE 21 313069

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Filed: 06/26/15 Entered: 06/26/15 02:20:08 Page 21 off1219 Case: 11-31376 Doc# 2203

# **EXHIBIT A**

4	1			
1	DIAMOND McCARTHY LLP			
2	Christopher R. Murray (pro hac vice)			
	909 Fannin, 15th Floor			
3	Houston, TX 77010 Telephone: 713-333-5100			
4	Facsimile: 713-333-5199			
5	cmurray@diamondmccarthy.com mfishel@diamondmccarthy.com			
6	Counsel for Allan B. Diamond,			
7	KORNFIELD, NYBERG, BENDES & KUHNER, P.C.			
8	Chris D. Kumler, Esq. (Bar No. 173271)			
9	Oakland, CA 94012			
10	Telephone: 510-763-1000 Facsimile: 510-273-8669			
11	Local Counsel for Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee for Howrey LLP			
12				
13	UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA			
14	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION			
15	In re	Case No. 11-31376 DM Chapter 11		
		Hon. Dennis Montali		
16	HOWREY LLP,			
17	Debtor.	DECLARATION OF ALLAN B. DIAMOND IN SUPPORT OF THE		
18		FIRST OMNIBUS MOTION FOR AUTHORITY UNDER BANKRUPTCY		
19		RULE 9019 TO ENTER INTO MULTIPLE SETTLEMENTS WITH		
20		FORMER HOWREY PARTNERS		
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Allan B. Diamond makes this declaration under 28 U.S.C. § 1746, and states: 1. I am the chapter 11 trustee ("Trustee") in the above captioned bankruptcy case of Howrey LLP ("Howrey" or "Debtor"). The Court approved my appointment on October 12, 2011. I make this declaration in support of the First Omnibus Motion for Authority under Bankruptcy Rule 9019 to Enter Into Multiple Settlements With Former Howrey Partners ("Motion"). 2. This declaration is based on my personal knowledge or the best of my knowledge derived from discussions with professionals employed by me as Trustee. **Summary** 3. Through the Motion, I seek Court authority to enter into settlements with the following, and a true and correct copy of the proposed settlement agreement for each appears as an exhibit to the Motion as indicated: a. Katherine Basile, agreement at Exhibit B; Joachim Fledges, agreement at Exhibit C; Leigh Kirmsse, agreement at **Exhibit D**; Peter Tracey, agreement at **Exhibit E**; Ben Davidson and the Davidson Law Group, agreement at **Exhibit F**; Ethan Litwin, agreement at **Exhibit G**; Barbara Werther, agreement at **Exhibit H**; Jessica Breitbeil, agreement at **Exhibit I**; Frank Cote, agreement at **Exhibit J**; Brent Allen, agreement at **Exhibit K**;

- k. Gary Fischman, agreement at Exhibit L;
- 1. Jeffrey Lenser, agreement at Exhibit M;
- m. Todd McLawhorn, agreement at Exhibit N; and
- n. Kenneth Donnelly, agreement at Exhibit O.
- 4. My counsel negotiated each of these agreements separately. The settlements are offered together in this omnibus motion for administrative efficiency, but each settlement is offered on its own merits, and none is contingent on Court approval of any of the other settlements.
- 5. If approved, the settlements would collectively release claims against the Howrey estate of \$420,807, of which \$34,725 constitute alleged priority wage claims; release all other claims against the Howrey estate held by the releasing parties but not included in filed proofs of claim; and cash payments to the Howrey estate of \$139,862.

### **Howrey Bankruptcy**

- 6. Prior to entering bankruptcy, Howrey was a major international law firm.
- 7. On April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed a chapter 7 involuntary petition against the Debtor. On June 6, 2011, the Court entered an order converting the above captioned case to a case under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 8. On September 22, 2011, the Court entered an order granting a motion to appoint a chapter 11 trustee. On October 7, 2011, the U.S. Trustee for the Northern District of California appointed the me as chapter 11 trustee for the estate of Howrey.

### The Estate's Claims Against The Settling Parties

9. The estate's claims against the settling parties fall into three categories:

Clawback Claims. Howrey made distributions to partners while Howrey was 10. insolvent. These distributions included both bonuses paid to certain partners and payments in return of capital contributions. These distributions are avoidable as fraudulent transfers under both the Bankruptcy Code (section 548) and under District of Columbia law (through Bankruptcy Code section 544) and the amounts distributed are recoverable under Bankruptcy Code section 550. Former partners have raised several defenses to these clawback claims. In the case of regular draws and bonuses, some former partners argue that payments were not equity distributions but were instead salary paid for legal services provided. Some former partners allege a contractual entitlement to some of the payments. With respect to payments in return of capital contributions, some payments were made directly to financial institutions to repay loans the partners took to fund their capital contributions. Some partners allege that repayment of those loans relieved Howrey of potential guarantor liability on those loans. If successful, any of these arguments by former partners might establish reasonably equivalent value for the transfers and prevent recovery by the estate. The estate has clawback claims against each of the settling parties.

- 11. <u>Unfinished Business Claims</u>. The estate has a right to an accounting for profits on unfinished business received by former partners for their work on client matters that were open at the time those partners left Howrey. These claims arise under *Jewel v. Boxer*, 156 Cal. App. 3d 171 (1984) and its progeny. The only proposed settlement that includes a release of unfinished business claims is the Davidson settlement.
- 12. <u>Tax Reimbursement Claims</u>. As required by federal law and regulations issued by the US Department of the Treasury pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, the estate paid the US income tax obligations of certain former Howrey partners who reside abroad. I am seeking

full reimbursement of those payments. The only settlement in this Motion that involves tax reimbursement claims is the Feldges settlement.

### Negotiations with the Settling Attorneys

13. My counsel negotiated at arms-length well over a year with the settling parties. While some of the settling parties are represented by counsel, others negotiated the settlements on their own behalf directly with my counsel.

### Background and Terms of Each Settlement

- 14. <u>Basile</u>. Katherine Basile was a Howrey partner. While Howrey was insolvent, she received certain distributions that the Trustee alleges are subject to avoidance and recovery as fraudulent transfers. Basile disputes the Trustee's claims. I initiated litigation on these claims in *Diamond v. Basile*, Adv. No. 14-3081-DM (Bankr. N.D. Cal.), which is pending in this Court. My counsel negotiated with Basile directly over a five-month period regarding these claims. Under the proposed settlement, Basile would pay the estate \$3,000 and would release any potential claims she may have against the estate, and the estate would dismiss with prejudice the adversary proceeding against her.
- 15. <u>Feldges</u>. Joachim Feldges was a Howrey partner and resides abroad. The estate paid \$3,313 to the IRS on account of Feldges US income tax liability, as required by federal law. The estate has clawback claims for distributions paid to Feldges while Howrey was insolvent. My counsel negotiated directly with Feldges for approximately three months. Under the proposed settlement, Feldges would pay the estate \$40,000 and release any potential claims he may have against the estate.
- 16. <u>Kirmsse</u>. Leigh Kirmsse was a Howrey partner who filed proof of claim #1059 against the estate for \$70,281, of which \$11,725 is an alleged priority wage claim. The estate

has clawback claims for distributions that Kirmsse received while Howrey was insolvent. My counsel negotiated with counsel for Kirmsse, who informed us of a medical condition that prevents Kirmsse from gainful employment and, therefore, increases collections risk. Under the proposed settlement, Kirmsse would release claim #1059 and any other claims against the estate.

- 17. <u>Tracey</u>. Peter Tracey was a Howrey partner. The estate has clawback claims against him. My counsel negotiated directly with Tracey at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Tracey would pay the estate \$2,000 and release any other claims against the estate.
- Davidson. Ben Davidson was a former Howrey partner and is now affiliated with the Davidson Law Group. Davidson filed proof of claim #659 against the estate for \$93,000, of which \$11,725 is an alleged priority wage claim. The estate has both clawback claims for distributions in return of capital and unfinished business claims for client matters that Davidson took with him to his new firm upon dissociating from Howrey. I initiated litigation of these claims in *Diamond v. Davidson Law Group*, Adv. No. 13-3039-DM (Bankr. N.D. Cal.), which is pending in this Court. My counsel negotiated for several months directly with Davidson, who disclosed aspects related to his and his law firm's financial condition that reflect negatively on the estate's ability to collect on any significant judgment amount. Under the proposed settlement, Davidson would release his proof of claim, he and his law firm would release any other claims against the estate, Davidson would pay \$5,000, and the estate would dismiss with prejudice the adversary proceeding against Davidson and the Davidson Law Group.
- 19. <u>Litwin</u>. Ethan Litwin was a Howrey partner. The estate has clawback claims against him. My counsel negotiated directly with Litwin at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Litwin would pay the estate \$2,100 and release any claims against the estate.

- 20. Werther. Barbara Werther was a Howrey partner. The estate has clawback claims and claims related to a goodwill purchase agreement she entered into with Howrey. My counsel negotiated with Werther's counsel at arm's length over a period of months. While they were unable to agree to a global resolution of all claims, they did reach a proposed settlement related to the clawback claims only, under which Werther would pay the estate \$69,700, and the estate would preserve the right to pursue claims on the goodwill purchase agreement.
- 21. <u>Breitbeil</u>. Jessica Breitbeil was a Howrey partner. The estate has clawback claims against her based on payments made to her in return of capital. My counsel negotiated with Breitbeil's counsel at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Breitbeil would pay the estate \$3,500 and release any claims against the estate.
- 22. <u>Cote</u>. Frank Cote was a Howrey partner. The estate has a clawbacks claim against him. My counsel counsel negotiated directly with Cote at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Cote would pay the estate \$1,469 and release any claims against the Howrey estate.
- 23. <u>Allen.</u> Brent Allen was a Howrey partner. The estate has clawback claims against him. My counsel negotiated directly with Allen at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Allen would pay the estate \$1,500 and release any claims against the Howrey estate.
- 24. <u>Fischman</u>. Gary Fischman was a Howrey partner who filed proof of claim #579-1 against the estate for \$198,896.73, of which \$11,725 is an alleged priority wage claim. The estate has clawback claims against him. My counsel negotiated directly with Fischman at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Fischman would pay the estate \$1,688 and release claim #579-1 and any other claims against the estate.

- 25. <u>Lenser</u>. Jeffrey Lenser was a Howrey partner who filed proof of claim #718-1 against the estate for \$58,628.61. The estate has clawback claims against him based on payments in return of capital and other distributions received. My counsel negotiated directly with Lenser at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Lenser would pay the estate \$7,000 and release claim #718-1 and any other claims against the estate.
- 26. <u>McLawhorn</u>. Todd McLawhorn was a Howrey partner. The estate has clawback claims against him based on payments in return of capital. My counsel negotiated directly with McLawhorn at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, McLawhorn would pay \$1,305 and release any claims he has against the estate.
- 27. <u>Donnelly</u>. Kenneth Donnelly was a Howrey partner. The estate has clawback claims against him based on payments in return of capital. My counsel negotiated directly with Donnelly at arm's length. Under the proposed settlement, Donnelly would pay \$1,600 and release any claims he has against the estate.
- 28. For the reasons discussed below, the Trustee submits that each of the proposed settlements is well within the range of reasonableness, is in the best interests of the estate and is a fair and equitable transactions to all parties and for the benefit of creditors.

# Determination that Each Settlement is Fair and Equitable

- 29. In the exercise of my business judgment, I analyzed each of the proposed settlements under the four factors outlined in *Martin v. Kane (In re A & C Properties)*, 784 F.2d 1377, 1381 (9th Cir. 1986). The following is my consideration of each factor.
- 30. Factor 1: <u>Litigation Risk</u>. I believe the estate has strong claims against the settling defendants. However, these claims are not without risk. On the clawback claims, I may fail to establish insolvency during the relevant time periods. I may also fail to establish that the

distributions were, in fact, equity distributions, and were not compensation for which reasonably equivalent value was provided. On the unfinished business claims, there is risk that the appellate courts will determine that the *Jewel* doctrine does not apply in the context of the Trustee's claims here. That precise conclusion was reached this week in a published decision by US District Court Judge James Donato in the consolidated appeals of certain law firm defendants in *Hogan Lovells US LLP v. Howrey LLP*, Case No. 14-cv-04889-JD (N.D. Cal.). This issue likely will not be resolved for some time in the future depending upon rulings from the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and, potentially, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and is therefore an uncertain outcome.

- 31. Factor 2: <u>Collections Risk</u>. In my experience, litigation against private individuals invariably involves some degree of collections risk for a judgment of any substantial amount. In addition, some individual defendants here, Kirmsse and Davidson have extenuating circumstances that add additional collections risk, which factor into my determination of what settlement amount is reasonable in my business judgment. Finally, in the case of defendants who reside abroad here, Feldges collections risk includes potential hurdles in enforcing the judgment of a US court in a foreign jurisdiction.
- 32. Factor 3: <u>Litigation Cost</u>. Litigation of these cases would be costly and time consuming. On the clawback claims, litigation will require expert testimony on insolvency, which adds a layer of cost to an already complex area of law. The contract and *Jewel* claims will also require extensive and costly discovery, including of former partners and documents related to client engagements and relationships. Litigation in this area is also highly contentious, given that the defendants are generally private individual attorneys with personal and emotional investments in the outcome. I weigh this factor heavily in favor of compromise.

33. Factor 4: Creditor Interest. I seek to avoid the costs and delays of litigation. Closing these settlements would provide an immediate and significant financial benefit to the estate, not only in terms of saved professional fees, but also from the cash payments and claims releases under the individual agreements.

34. In light of the A&C Properties factors, I have concluded in my business judgment that each of the proposed settlements is fair, reasonable and in the best interest of the estate and should be approved by the Court.

35. In my business judgment, the Settlement is undoubtedly in the best interest of the Debtor's estate.

Dated: June

B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of the

Bankruptcy Estate of Howrey LLP

# **EXHIBIT B**

### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "<u>Agreement</u>") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("<u>Howrey</u>") and Katherine Basile ("<u>Basile</u>," together with the Trustee, the "<u>Parties</u>"), as of the date signed below.

### **RECITALS**

- A. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- B. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- C. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- D. WHEREAS, on June 30, 2014, the Trustee commenced an adversary proceeding against Basile (Adv. No. 14-03081) by filing a complaint alleging that Howrey made transfers to Basile at a time when Howrey was insolvent ("Excess Distribution Claim").
- E. WHEREAS, between December 2014 and April 2015, the Trustee and Basile engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding the settlement of the Excess Distribution Claim. On April 9, 2015, Basile accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all claims and defenses and potential claims and defenses arising out of or related in any way to the Adversary Proceeding and the Claims pursuant to the terms set forth herein, including the Excess Distribution Claim, that the Trustee or Howrey may have against Basile.

#### AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1. The Parties have agreed that Basile shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$3,000, in a one-time payment (the "Payment"), to resolve all potential claims that the Trustee and/or Howrey has or may have against Basile.
- 2. Basile has agreed to provide the Payment according to this Agreement in exchange for the releases provided to Basile in this Agreement. Accordingly, within fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in Paragraph 17 below, Basile shall transfer the Payment to the Trustee by check as follows:

Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP" Diamond McCarthy LLP

Attention – Cathy Burrow Two Houston Center 909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500 Houston, Texas 77010

- 3. Within ten (10) business days of receipt of the Payment, the Trustee shall prepare the necessary documents and file them with the Bankruptcy Court to dismiss the Adversary Proceeding with prejudice.
- 4. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Basile agrees to reasonably cooperate, as needed, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 5. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and receipt of the Payment, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Basile of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Basile, including any Excess Distribution Claims.
- 6. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and after transfer of the Payment to the Trustee, Basile, in her own name and on behalf of her agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Basile has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.
- 7. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor. By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 8. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 9. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 10. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 11. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 12. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 13. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.
- 14. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.

- 15. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 16. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 17. This Agreement shall be effective (the "<u>Effective Date</u>") seven (7) days after Basile receives written notice that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

AGREED:

Dated: 515, 2015

Howrey LP, Debtor

By:\_

Allan ... Diamo d, Chapter 11 Trustee

Kathun M Bande

Dated: 5/11, 2015

Katherine Basile

# **EXHIBIT C**

### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "<u>Agreement</u>") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("<u>Howrey</u>") and Joachim Feldges ("<u>Feldges</u>", together with the Trustee, the "<u>Parties</u>"), as of the date signed below.

### **RECITALS**

- A. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- B. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- C. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- D. WHEREAS, the Trustee has analyzed the excess distribution claims for transfers made to Feldges by Howrey at a time when Howrey was insolvent (collectively, the "Excess Distribution Claims").
- E. WHEREAS, in April 2014, the Trustee paid your 2013 U.S. tax obligation in the amount of \$3,313 for Howrey income and now seeks full repayment of that amount (the "<u>Tax</u> Claim").
- F. WHEREAS, between September 30, 2014 and November 11, 2014, the Trustee and Feldges engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding the settlement of Excess Distribution Claims. On November 12, 2014, Feldges accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all potential claims, including the Excess Distribution Claim and Tax Claim, that the Trustee may have against Feldges in consideration of the facts and circumstances of this matter in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation.
- G. NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and the covenants contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby mutually acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows.

### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

1. The Parties have agreed that Feldges shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$40,000, in a one-time payment (the "Payment"), to resolve the Excess Distribution Claims and Tax Claim that the Trustee and/or Howrey has or may have against Feldges.

2. Feldges has agreed to provide the Payment according to this Agreement in exchange for the releases provided to Feldges in this Agreement. Accordingly, within five (5) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in Paragraph 16 below, Feldges shall transfer the Payment to the Trustee either by check or wire transfer, in the manner described below:

### a. By check:

Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP"
Diamond McCarthy LLP
Attention – Jason M. Rudd
Two Houston Center
909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77010; or

#### b. By wire transfer:

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP Account No. 9250393741 Citibank, N.A. ABA No. 254070116

- 3. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Feldges agrees to reasonably cooperate, if required, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 4. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and receipt of the Payment, the Trustee on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Feldges of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Feldges, including any Excess Distribution Claims and Tax Claim.
- 5. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and after transfer of the Payment to the Trustee, Feldges, in his own name and on behalf of his agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, and

demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Feldges has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.

6. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 7. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 8. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 9. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of) any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by a writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 10. This agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 11. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 12. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agree that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought on in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.

- 13. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.
- 14. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 15. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 16. This Agreement shall be effective (the "<u>Effective Date</u>") ten (10) days after Feldges receives written notice that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

AGREED:

Dated: November , 2015

Dated: November 19, 2014

Howrey LLP, Debtor

Allan B. Diamond Chapter 11 Trustee

Jeachim Feldges

# **EXHIBIT D**

### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "<u>Agreement</u>") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("<u>Howrey</u>") and Leigh Kirmsse ("<u>Kirmsse</u>", together with the Trustee, the "<u>Parties</u>"), as of the date signed below.

### **RECITALS**

- A. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- B. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- C. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- D. WHEREAS, on September 4, 2012, Kirmsse filed a proof of claim ("POC #1059") in the amount of \$70,281.
- E. WHEREAS, on June 4, 2013, the Trustee commenced an adversary proceeding against, among others, Kirmsse (Adv. No. 13-03163) by filing a complaint alleging that Howrey made \$67,500 in transfers to Kirmsse at a time when Howrey was insolvent ("Excess Distribution Claim").
- F. WHEREAS, on March 18, 2015, Kirmsse signed a sworn declaration informing the Trustee of a medical condition that prevented her from gainful employment. Due to her illness and inability to work, she does not have resources to pay any settlement of the Excess Distribution Claim by the Trustee.
- G. WHEREAS, between October 2014 and March, 2015, the Trustee and Kirmsse engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding the settlement of the Excess Distribution Claims. At the beginning of April 2015, Kirmsse accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all claims and defenses and potential claims and defenses arising out of or related in any way to the Adversary Proceeding and the Claims pursuant to the terms set forth herein, including the Excess Distribution, that the Trustee or Howrey may have against Kirmsse in consideration of the facts and circumstances of this matter in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation.

### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1. Within five (5) business days of the Effective Date (as defined below) of this Agreement, Kirmsse shall withdraw POC #1059.
- 2. Within ten (10) business days of the withdrawal of POC #1059, the Trustee shall prepare the necessary documents and file them with the Bankruptcy Court to dismiss the Adversary Proceeding, with respect to Kirmsse, with prejudice.
- 3. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Kirmsse agrees to reasonably cooperate, if required, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 4. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and withdrawal of the POC #1059, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Kirmsse of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Kirmsse, including any Excess Distribution Claims.
- 5. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement, Kirmsse, in her own name and on behalf of her agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Kirmsse has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.
- 6. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 7. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 8. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 9. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 10. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 11. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 12. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.
- 13. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.

- 14. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 15. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 16. Each Party agrees to bear his, her or its own attorneys' fees and other costs and expenses incurred in connection with this Agreement and any litigation or matters between the Parties, including without limitation the Excess Distribution Claim and POC #1059.
- 17. The "Effective Date" shall occur when the Trustee has notified Kirmsse via email to her counsel that an order of the Bankruptcy Court approving this Agreement has become effective within the meaning of Bankruptcy Rule 9021, the time for direct appeal to the United States District Court or Bankruptcy Appellate Panel pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 8002 has passed, and either (i) there has been no appeal or (ii) if there has been an appeal, the Bankruptcy Court order is not subject to any stay, including without limitation, as the result of a stay issued pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 8005.

AGREED:

Dated: April 15, 2015

Dated: April 3,2015

Howrey LLP, Debtor

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee

Leigh Kirmsse

# **EXHIBIT E**

### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "<u>Agreement</u>") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("<u>Howrey</u>") and Peter L. Tracey ("<u>Tracey</u>"), together with the Trustee, the "<u>Parties</u>"), as of the date signed below.

### **RECITALS**

- A. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- B. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- C. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- D. WHEREAS, the Trustee has analyzed the excess distribution claims for transfers (including return of capital) made to Tracey by Howrey at a time when Howrey was alleged by the Trustee to be insolvent (collectively, the "Excess Distribution Claims").
- E. WHEREAS, between October 2014 and January, 2015, the Trustee and Tracey engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding the settlement of Excess Distribution Claims. At the beginning of January 2015, Tracey accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all potential claims, including the Excess Distribution Claim, that the Trustee or Howrey may have against Tracey in consideration of the facts and circumstances of this matter in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation.
- F. NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and the covenants contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby mutually acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows.

### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1. The Parties have agreed that Tracey shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$2,000, in a one-time payment (the "Payment"), to resolve all potential claims including the Excess Distribution Claims that the Trustee and/or Howrey has or may have against Tracey.
- 2. Tracey has agreed to provide the Payment according to this Agreement in exchange for the releases provided to Tracey in this Agreement. Accordingly, within fourteen

(14) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in Paragraph 17 below, Tracey shall transfer the Payment to the Trustee by check or wire transfer to:

### a. By check:

Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP"
Diamond McCarthy LLP
Attention – Cathy Burrow
Two Houston Center
909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77010; or

## b. By wire transfer:

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrcy LLP Account No. 9250393741 Citibank, N.A. ABA No. 254070116

- 3. The Trustce represents that it will cause Howrey to treat the Payment as a return of and contribution to the capital of Howrey, and to the extent necessary will use best efforts to allocate net tax losses to Tracey in an aggregate amount equal to the Payment.
- 4. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Tracey agrees to reasonably cooperate, if required, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 5. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and receipt of the Payment, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Tracey of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Tracey, including any Excess Distribution Claims.
- 6. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and after transfer of the Payment to the Trustee, Tracey, in his own name and on behalf of his agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all

manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Tracey has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.

7. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 8. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 9. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 10. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 11. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 12. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 13. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court

related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.

- 14. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.
- 15. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 16. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 17. This Agreement shall be effective (the "<u>Effective Date</u>") seven (7) days after Tracey receives written notice that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

AGREED:

Dated: May 15, 2015

Dated: May 13, 2015

Howrey LLP, Debtor

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee

Peter L. Tracey

# **EXHIBIT F**

### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "<u>Agreement</u>") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("<u>Howrey</u>"), Ben Davidson ("<u>Davidson</u>"), and Davidson Law Group ("<u>DLG</u>," together with the Trustee, the "<u>Parties</u>"), as of the date signed below.

### RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- B. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- C. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- D. WHEREAS, on October 10, 2011, Davidson filed a proof of claim ("POC #659") in the amount of \$93,000.
- E. WHEREAS, on March 11, 2013, the Trustee commenced an adversary proceeding against Davidson and DLG (Adv. No. 13-03039) by filing a complaint alleging that Howrey made \$5,000 in transfers to Davidson (including return of capital) at a time when Howrey was insolvent ("Excess Distribution Claims"). In addition the Trustee alleged that the DLG was liable to the Trustee for any profits that DLG earned by taking Howrey unfinished business to DLG upon Howrey's dissolution ("Unfinished Business Claims").
- F. WHEREAS, between December 2014 and April 10, 2015, the Trustee and Davidson engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding the settlement of the Excess Distribution and Unfinished Business Claims. At the beginning of April 2015, Davidson accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all claims and defenses and potential claims and defenses arising out of or related in any way to the Adversary Proceeding and the Claims pursuant to the terms set forth herein, including the Excess Distribution and Unfinished Business Claims, that the Trustee or Howrey may have against Davidson and DLG in consideration of the facts and circumstances of this matter in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation.

#### AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1. The Parties have agreed that Davidson shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$5,000, in a one-time payment (the "<u>Payment</u>"), to resolve all potential claims that the Trustee and/or Howrey has or may have against Davidson and DLG.
- 2. Davidson has agreed to provide the Payment according to this Agreement in exchange for the releases provided to Davidson and DLG in this Agreement. Accordingly, within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in Paragraph 17 below, Davidson shall cause a transfer of the Payment to the Trustee by check as follows:

Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP"
Diamond McCarthy LLP
Attention – Cathy Burrow
Two Houston Center
909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77010

- 3. Within five (5) business days of the Effective Date (as defined below) of this Agreement, Davidson shall withdraw POC #659.
- 4. Within ten (10) business days of receipt of the Payment, the Trustee shall prepare the necessary documents and file them with the Bankruptcy Court to dismiss the Adversary Proceeding with prejudice.
- 5. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Davidson and DLG agree to reasonably cooperate, as needed, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 6. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and receipt of the Payment, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Davidson and DLG of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Davidson or DLG, including any Excess Distribution and Unfinished Business Claims.
- 7. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and after transfer of the Payment to the Trustee, Davidson, in his own name and on behalf of his agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums

of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Davidson has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.

8. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 9. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 10. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 11. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 12. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 13. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 14. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court

shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.

- 15. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.
- 16. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 17. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 18. This Agreement shall be effective (the "<u>Effective Date</u>") seven (7) days after Davidson receives written notice that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

AGREED:	
Dated: 19 , 2015	Howrey LLP, Debtor
	By: Justiful
	Allan B. Ditmond, Chapter 11 Trustee
Dated: May 14, 2015	Ben Davidson
	Dan Comit
Dated: May 14, 2015	Davidson Law Group, a Law Corporation
	Dan Carrila
	President

# **EXHIBIT G**

#### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "<u>Agreement</u>") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("<u>Howrey</u>") and Ethan Litwin ("<u>Litwin</u>", together with the Trustee, the "<u>Parties</u>"), as of the date signed below.

#### **RECITALS**

- A. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- B. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- C. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- D. WHEREAS, the Trustee has analyzed the excess distribution claims for transfers (including return of capital) made to Litwin by Howrey at a time when Howrey was alleged by the Trustee to be insolvent (collectively, the "Excess Distribution Claims").
- E. WHEREAS, between October 2014 and January, 2015, the Trustee and Litwin engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding the settlement of Excess Distribution Claims. At the beginning of January 2015, Litwin accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all potential claims, including the Excess Distribution Claim, that the Trustee or Howrey may have against Litwin in consideration of the facts and circumstances of this matter in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation.
- F. NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and the covenants contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby mutually acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows.

#### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1. The Parties have agreed that Litwin shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$2,100, in a one-time payment (the "Payment"), to resolve all potential claims including the Excess Distribution Claims that the Trustee and/or Howrey has or may have against Litwin.
- 2. Litwin has agreed to provide the Payment according to this Agreement in exchange for the releases provided to Litwin in this Agreement. Accordingly, within fourteen

(14) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in Paragraph 17 below, Litwin shall transfer the Payment to the Trustee by check or wire transfer to:

#### a. By check:

Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP"
Diamond McCarthy LLP
Attention – Cathy Burrow
Two Houston Center
909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77010; or

#### b. By wire transfer:

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP Account No. 9250393741 Citibank, N.A. ABA No. 254070116

- 3. The Trustee represents that it will cause Howrey to treat the Payment as a return of and contribution to the capital of Howrey, and to the extent necessary will use best efforts to allocate net tax losses to Litwin in an aggregate amount equal to the Payment.
- 4. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Litwin agrees to reasonably cooperate, if required, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 5. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and receipt of the Payment, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Litwin of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Litwin, including any Excess Distribution Claims.
- 6. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and after transfer of the Payment to the Trustee, Litwin, in her own name and on behalf of her agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all

manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Litwin has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.

7. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 8. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 9. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 10. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 11. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 12. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 13. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court

related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.

- 14. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.
- 15. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 16. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 17. This Agreement shall be effective (the "<u>Effective Date</u>") seven (7) days after Litwin receives written notice that the Bankruptcy Court has entered a final order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

AGREED:

Dated: May 1, 2015

Howrey LLP, Debtor

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee

Dated: May 29, 2015

Ethan Litwin

# EXHIBIT H

#### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "Trustee") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("Howrey") and Barbara G. Werther ("Werther", together with the Trustee, the "Parties"), as of the date signed below.

#### **RECITALS**

- A. WHEREAS, on March 9, 2011, the remaining partners of Howrey voted to dissolve the partnership;
- B. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- C. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- D. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- E. WHEREAS, the Trustee asserts claims (a) to recover distributions (including the return of capital) made to Werther by Howrey at a time when Howrey was alleged by the Trustee to be insolvent ("Excess Distribution Claims"); and (b) arising from or relating to a Goodwill Purchase Agreement entered into between Howrey and Werther in 2008 ("GPA Claims");
- F. WHEREAS, between December 2014 and May 19, 2015, the Trustee and Werther engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding the settlement of Excess Distribution Claims and the GPA Claims;
- G. WHEREAS, the Parties have reached an agreement to resolve the Excess Distribution Claims, but have not reached an agreement with respect to the GPA Claims;

#### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1. Werther shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$69,700 to resolve the Excess Distribution Claims in two payments (the "Payments") as set forth below:
  - a. \$20,000 on or before December 31, 2015; and
  - b. \$49,700 on or before September 1, 2016.
  - 2. Payment to the Trustee under this agreement shall be made by

a. By check
 Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP"
 Diamond McCarthy LLP
 Attention – Cathy Burrow
 Two Houston Center
 909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
 Houston, Texas 77010

or

By wire:

 Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP
 Account No. 9250393741
 Citibank, N.A.
 ABA No. 254070116

or as otherwise agreed by the Parties.

- 3. The Trustee represents that he will cause Howrey to treat the Payments as a return of and contribution to the capital of Howrey, and to the extent necessary will use best efforts to allocate net tax losses to Werther in an aggregate amount equal to the Payments.
- 4. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Werther agrees to reasonably cooperate, if required, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court, but does not otherwise consent to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court except as provided herein. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 5. The "<u>Effective Date</u> of this Agreement shall occur seven (7) days after the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.
- 6. Except as expressly set forth herein, upon the Effective Date, Werther, in her own name on her own behalf and on behalf of her agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, releases for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Werther has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.
- 7. Upon the later of the Effective Date or the receipt by the Trustee of both Payments, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Werther of and on

Page 2 of 4

account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Werther; *provided*, *however*, that the Trustee expressly preserves all rights to pursue the GPA Claims, it being the intention of the Parties that nothing in this Agreement has any effect on either the Trustee's rights to pursue the GPA Claims or on Werther's rights to defend against such claims.

8. In connection with the releases set forth above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 9. In the event that the Trustee does not receive any of the Payments by the deadlines provided herein, and such failure to pay is not cured within seven (7) days of receipt of notice of such failure, the Trustee shall be entitled to interest on any unpaid amount at the higher of 16% per year or the maximum rate permitted by law, and to reasonable costs incurred in pursuing collections of such past due amounts. Payments shall be applied first to any interest or costs incurred under this paragraph and then to any other amounts owed under this Agreement.
- 10. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 11. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 12. Except as set forth herein, this Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 13. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.

Page 3 of 4

- 14. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 15. Except as set forth herein with respect to the GPA Claims, each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case. For the avoidance of doubt, Werther does not consent to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action or suit involving the GPA Claims.
- 16. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.
- 17. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 18. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable. For the avoidance of doubt, this paragraph shall have no effect on any action or suit involving the GPA Claims.

AGREED:

Dated: June 3, 2015

Howrey LLP, Debtor

By:

Allan B. Diamond Chapter 11 Trustee

Baybara I Weither

Dated: June 2, 2015

Barbara G. Werther

Page 4 of 4

# **EXHIBIT I**

### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "<u>Agreement</u>") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("<u>Howrey</u>") and Jessica Wannemacher Breitbeil ("<u>Breitbeil</u>", together with the Trustee, the "<u>Parties</u>"), as of the date signed below.

#### **RECITALS**

- A. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- B. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- C. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- D. WHEREAS, the Trustee has analyzed the excess distribution claims for transfers (including return of capital) made to Breitbeil by Howrey at a time when Howrey was alleged by the Trustee to be insolvent (collectively, the "Excess Distribution Claims").
- E. WHEREAS, between December 2014 and March 10, 2015, the Trustee and Breitbeil engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding the settlement of Excess Distribution Claims. At the beginning of March 2015, Breitbeil, through her counsel, accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all potential claims, including the Excess Distribution Claim, that the Trustee or Howrey may have against Breitbeil in consideration of the facts and circumstances of this matter in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation.
- F. NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and the covenants contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby mutually acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows.

#### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1. The Parties have agreed that Breitbeil shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$3,500, in a one-time payment (the "Payment"), to resolve all potential claims including the Excess Distribution Claims that the Trustee and/or Howrey has or may have against Breitbeil.
- 2. Breitbeil has agreed to provide the Payment according to this Agreement in exchange for the releases provided to Breitbeil in this Agreement. Accordingly, within fourteen

(14) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in Paragraph 17 below, Breitbeil shall transfer the Payment to the Trustee by check or wire transfer to:

#### a. By check:

Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP"
Diamond McCarthy LLP
Attention – Cathy Burrow
Two Houston Center
909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77010; or

#### b. By wire transfer:

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP Account No. 9250393741 Citibank, N.A. ABA No. 254070116

- 3. The Trustee represents that it will cause Howrey to treat the Payment as a return of and contribution to the capital of Howrey, and to the extent necessary will use best efforts to allocate net tax losses to Breitbeil in an aggregate amount equal to the Payment.
- 4. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Breitbeil agrees to reasonably cooperate, if required, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 5. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and receipt of the Payment, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Breitbeil of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Breitbeil, including any Excess Distribution Claims.
- 6. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and after transfer of the Payment to the Trustee, Breitbeil, in her own name and on behalf of her agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on

account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Breitbeil has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.

7. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 8. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 9. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 10. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 11. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 12. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 13. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court

related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.

- 14. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.
- 15. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 16. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 17. This Agreement shall be effective (the "<u>Effective Date</u>") seven (7) days after Breitbeil receives written notice that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

AGREED:

Dated: May 4, 2015

Howrey LLP, Debtor

By:

Ilan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee

un Brielliel

Dated: May 19, 2015

Jessica Wannemacher Breitbeil

# **EXHIBIT J**

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "<u>Agreement</u>") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("<u>Howrey</u>") and Frank Cote ("<u>Cote</u>", together with the Trustee, the "<u>Parties</u>"), as of the date signed below.

#### RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- B. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- C. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- D. WHEREAS, the Trustee has analyzed the excess distribution claims for transfers (including return of capital) made to Cote by Howrey at a time when Howrey was alleged by the Trustee to be insolvent (collectively, the "Excess Distribution Claims").
- E. WHEREAS, in May 2015, the Trustee and Cote engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding the settlement of Excess Distribution Claims. At the end of May 2015, Cote accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all potential claims, including the Excess Distribution Claim, that the Trustee or Howrey may have against Cote in consideration of the facts and circumstances of this matter in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation.
- F. NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and the covenants contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby mutually acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows.

## **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1. The Parties have agreed that Cote shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$1,469, in a one-time payment (the "Payment"), to resolve all potential claims including the Excess Distribution Claims that the Trustee and/or Howrey has or may have against Cote.
- 2. Cote has agreed to provide the Payment according to this Agreement in exchange for the releases provided to Cote in this Agreement. Accordingly, within fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in Paragraph 16 below, Cote shall transfer the Payment to the Trustee by check or wire transfer to:

#### a. By check:

Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP"
Diamond McCarthy LLP
Attention – Cathy Burrow
Two Houston Center
909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77010; or

### b. By wire transfer:

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP Account No. 9250393741 Citibank, N.A. ABA No. 254070116

- 3. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Cote agrees to reasonably cooperate, if required, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 4. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and receipt of the Payment, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Cote of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Cote, including any Excess Distribution Claims.
- 5. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and after transfer of the Payment to the Trustee, Cote, in his own name and on behalf of his agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Cote has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.

6. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 7. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 8. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 9. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 10. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 11. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 12. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.
- 13. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be

evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.

- 14. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 15. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 16. This Agreement shall be effective (the "<u>Effective Date</u>") seven (7) days after Cote receives written notice that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

AGREED:

Dated: May 1, 2015

Dated: May 26, 2015

Howrey LLP, Debtor

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee

Frank Cote

# **EXHIBIT K**

### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "<u>Agreement</u>") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("<u>Howrey</u>") and Brent Allen ("<u>Allen</u>", together with the Trustee, the "<u>Parties</u>"), as of the date signed below.

### RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- B. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- C. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- D. WHEREAS, the Trustee has analyzed the excess distribution claims for transfers (including return of capital) made to Allen by Howrey at a time when Howrey was alleged by the Trustee to be insolvent (collectively, the "Excess Distribution Claims").
- E. WHEREAS, in May 2015, the Trustee and Allen engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding the settlement of Excess Distribution Claims. On May 21 2015, Allen accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all potential claims, including the Excess Distribution Claim, that the Trustee or Howrey may have against Allen in consideration of the facts and circumstances of this matter in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation.
- F. NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and the covenants contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby mutually acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows.

### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1. The Parties have agreed that Allen shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$1,500, in a one-time payment (the "Payment"), to resolve all potential claims including the Excess Distribution Claims that the Trustee and/or Howrey has or may have against Allen.
- 2. Allen has agreed to provide the Payment according to this Agreement in exchange for the releases provided to Allen in this Agreement. Accordingly, within fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in Paragraph 17 below, Allen shall transfer the Payment to the Trustee by check or wire transfer to:

#### a. By check:

Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP"
Diamond McCarthy LLP
Attention – Cathy Burrow
Two Houston Center
909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77010; or

### b. By wire transfer:

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP Account No. 9250393741 Citibank, N.A. ABA No. 254070116

- 3. The Trustee represents that it will cause Howrey to treat the Payment as a return of and contribution to the capital of Howrey, and to the extent necessary will use best efforts to allocate net tax losses to Allen in an aggregate amount equal to the Payment.
- Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Allen agrees to reasonably cooperate, if required, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 5. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and receipt of the Payment, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Allen of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Allen, including any Excess Distribution Claims.
- 6. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and after transfer of the Payment to the Trustee, Allen, in his own name and on behalf of his agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands

whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Allen has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.

7. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 8. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 9. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 10. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 11. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 12. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 13. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.

- 14. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.
- 15. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 16. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 17. This Agreement shall be effective (the "Effective Date") seven (7) days after Allen receives written notice that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

AGREED:

Dated: May 3, 2015

June 2 Dated: May\_\_\_\_, 2015 Howred LLP, Debtor

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee

Brent Allen

# **EXHIBIT** L

#### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "<u>Agreement</u>") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("<u>Howrey</u>") and Gary Fischman ("<u>Fischman</u>", together with the Trustee, the "<u>Parties</u>"), as of the date signed below.

#### **RECITALS**

- A. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- B. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- C. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- D. WHEREAS, on October 10, 2011, Fischman filed a proof of claim ("POC #579-1") in the amount of \$198,896.73.
- E. WHEREAS, the Trustee has analyzed the excess distribution claims for transfers made to Fischman by Howrey at a time when Howrey was alleged by the Trustee to be insolvent (collectively, the "Excess Distribution Claims").
- F. WHEREAS, in May 2015, the Trustee and Fischman engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding the settlement of Excess Distribution Claims. At the end of May 2015, Fischman accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all potential claims, including the Excess Distribution Claim, that the Trustee or Howrey may have against Fischman in consideration of the facts and circumstances of this matter in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation.
- G. NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and the covenants contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby mutually acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows.

#### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

1. The Parties have agreed that Fischman shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$1,688, in a one-time payment (the "Payment"), to resolve all potential claims including the Excess Distribution Claims that the Trustee and/or Howrey has or may have against Fischman.

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2. Fischman has agreed to provide the Payment according to this Agreement in exchange for the releases provided to Fischman in this Agreement. Accordingly, within five (5) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in Paragraph 17 below, Fischman shall transfer the Payment to the Trustee by check or wire transfer to:

### a. By check:

Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP"
Diamond McCarthy LLP
Attention – Cathy Burrow
Two Houston Center
909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77010; or

## b. By wire transfer:

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP Account No. 9250393741 Citibank, N.A. ABA No. 254070116

- 3. Within five (5) business days of the Effective Date (as defined below) of this Agreement, Fischman shall withdraw POC #579-1 and any other proof of claims that Fischman may have filed in the Bankruptcy case.
- 4. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Fischman agrees to reasonably cooperate, if required, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 5. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and receipt of the Payment, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Fischman of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Fischman, including any Excess Distribution Claims.
- 6. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and after transfer of the Payment to the Trustee, Fischman, in his own name and on behalf of his agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates,

affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Fischman has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.

7. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 8. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 9. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 10. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 11. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 12. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 13. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may

now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.

- 14. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.
- 15. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals
- 16. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 17. This Agreement shall be effective (the "Effective Date") seven (7) days after Fischman receives written notice that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

AGREED:

Dated Jun 1, 2015

Dated 5/31, 2015

Howrey LLP, Debtor

h B Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee

Gary Vischman

# **EXHIBIT M**

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "Trustee") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("Howrey") and Jeffrey Lenser ("Lenser", together with the Trustee, the "Parties"), as of the date signed below.

#### RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptey Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptey Case") pending in the United States Bankruptey Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptey Court");
- B. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- C. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- D. WHEREAS, on October 7, 2011, Lenser filed a proof of claim ("POC #718-1") in the amount of \$58,628.61.
- E. WHEREAS, on June 4, 2013, the Trustee commenced an adversary proceeding against Lenser (Adv. No. 13-03163, the "Adversary Proceeding") by filing a complaint alleging that Howrey made \$95,842 in transfers to Lenser (including return of capital) at a time when Howrey was insolvent ("Excess Distribution Claims").
  - F. WHEREAS, Lenser denies that the Trustee has any viable claims.
- G. WHEREAS, effective June 4, 2013, the Trustee and Lenser entered into a Tolling Agreement that tolls the Trustee's claims against Lenser.
- H. WHEREAS, on July 30, 2013, the Trustee and Lenser filed a joint stipulation dismissing the Trustee's claims against Lenser without prejudice (the "Joint Stipulation").
- I. WHEREAS, in May 2015, the Trustee and Lenser engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding settlement of the Excess Distribution Claims. At the end of May 2015, Lenser accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all potential claims, including the Excess Distribution Claims, that the Trustee or Howrey had, has or may have against Lenser in consideration of the facts and circumstances of this matter in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation.
- J. NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and the covenants contained herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby mutually acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows.

#### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1. The Parties have agreed that Lenser shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$7,000, in a one-time payment (the "Payment"), to resolve all potential claims including the Excess Distribution Claims that the Trustee and/or Howrey has or may have against Lenser.
- 2. Lenser has agreed to provide the Payment according to this Agreement in exchange for the releases provided to Lenser in this Agreement. Accordingly, within ten (10) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in Paragraph 18 below, Lenser shall transfer the Payment to the Trustee by check:

Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP"
Diamond McCarthy LLP
Attention – Cathy Burrow
Two Houston Center
909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77010.

- 3. Within ten (10) business days of the Effective Date (as defined below) of this Agreement, Lenser shall withdraw POC #718-1 and any other proof of claims that Lenser may have filed in the Bankruptcy case.
- 4. Within ten (10) business days of receipt of the Payment, the Trustee shall file a dismissal of the Adversary Proceeding against Lenser with prejudice. Lenser agrees to reasonably cooperate, if required, with Trustee in obtaining the dismissal.
- 5. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Lenser agrees to reasonably cooperate, if required, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 6. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and receipt of the Payment, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Lenser of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Lenser, including any Excess Distribution Claims.
- 7. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and after transfer of the Payment to the Trustee, Lenser, in his own name and on behalf of his agents, administrators, successors, and

assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Lenser has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.

8. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 6 and 7 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 9. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, releases, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 10. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 11. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of) any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 12. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 13. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.

- 14. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.
- 15. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.
- 16. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 17. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 18. This Agreement shall be effective (the "Effective Date") seven (7) days after Lenser receives written notice that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

AGREED:

Dated: June 3\_, 2015

Dated: June , 2015

Howiey LLP, Debto

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee

Jeffrey M. Lenser

# **EXHIBIT N**

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "Trustee") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("Howrey"), and Todd McLawhorn ("McLawhorn" together with the Trustee, the "Parties"), as of the date signed below.

### RECITALS

- WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary A. petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order C. Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- WHEREAS, on June 4, 2013, the Trustee commenced an adversary proceeding against McLawhorn (Adv. No. 13-03163, the "Adversary Proceeding") by filing a complaint alleging that Howrey made transfers to McLawhorn (including return of capital) at a time when Howrey was insolvent ("Excess Distribution Claims").
- WHEREAS, in May 2015, the Trustee and McLawhorn engaged in arms-length E. negotiations regarding the settlement of the Excess Distribution Claims. At the beginning of June 2015, McLawhorn accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all claims and defenses and potential claims and defenses arising out of or related in any way to the Adversary Proceeding and the Claims pursuant to the terms set forth herein, including the Excess Distribution, that the Trustee or Howrey may have against McLawhorn in consideration of the facts and circumstances of this matter in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation.

# **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

- The Parties have agreed that McLawhorn shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$1,305, 1. in a one-time payment (the "Payment"), to resolve all potential claims that the Trustee and/or Howrey has or may have against McLawhorn.
- McLawhorn has agreed to provide the Payment according to this Agreement in exchange for the releases provided to McLawhorn in this Agreement. Accordingly, within fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in Paragraph 17 below, McLawhorn shall cause a transfer of the Payment to the Trustee by check as follows:

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Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP"
Diamond McCarthy LLP
Attention – Cathy Burrow
Two Houston Center
909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77010

- 3. Within ten (10) business days of receipt of the Payment, the Trustee shall prepare the necessary documents and file them with the Bankruptcy Court to dismiss the Adversary Proceeding with prejudice.
- 4. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). McLawhorn agrees to reasonably cooperate, as needed, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 5. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and receipt of the Payment, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges McLawhorn of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against McLawhorn, including any Excess Distribution Claims.
- 6. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and after transfer of the Payment to the Trustee, McLawhorn, in his own name and on behalf of his agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that McLawhorn has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.
- 7. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time

# of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 8. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 9. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 10. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of) any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 11. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 12. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 13. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.
- 14. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.

- 15. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 16. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 17. This Agreement shall be effective (the "Effective Date") seven (7) days after McLawhorn receives written notice that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

AGREED:

Dated: June 3, 2015

Howrey LLP, Debtor

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee

Dated: June 3, 2015

Todd McLawhorn

Johl 2 Wan

# **EXHIBIT O**

#### SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "<u>Agreement</u>") is entered into by and between Allan B. Diamond, in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee (the "<u>Trustee</u>") for Howrey, Simon, Arnold and White LLP a/k/a Howrey LLP ("<u>Howrey</u>"), and Kenneth Donnelly ("<u>Donnelly</u>" together with the Trustee, the "<u>Parties</u>"), as of the date signed below.

#### RECITALS

- A. WHEREAS, on April 11, 2011, certain creditors of Howrey filed an involuntary petition for relief under Chapter 7 of the United States Bankruptcy Code initializing Case No. 11-31376-DM (the "Bankruptcy Case") pending in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of California (the "Bankruptcy Court");
- B. WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order for Relief and Converting the Bankruptcy Case to one under Chapter 11;
- C. WHEREAS, on October 12, 2011, the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order Approving Appointment of Chapter 11 Trustee whereby the Bankruptcy Court approved the Trustee as the Chapter 11 Trustee in the Bankruptcy Case;
- D. WHEREAS, on June 4, 2013, the Trustee commenced an adversary proceeding against Donnelly (Adv. No. 13-03163, the "Adversary Proceeding") by filing a complaint alleging that Howrey made transfers to Donnelly (including return of capital) at a time when Howrey was insolvent ("Excess Distribution Claims").
- E. WHEREAS, in May 2015, the Trustee and Donnelly engaged in arms-length negotiations regarding the settlement of the Excess Distribution Claims. At the beginning of June 2015, Donnelly accepted the Trustee's final settlement offer to resolve all claims and defenses and potential claims and defenses arising out of or related in any way to the Adversary Proceeding and the Claims pursuant to the terms set forth herein, including the Excess Distribution, that the Trustee or Howrey may have against Donnelly in consideration of the facts and circumstances of this matter in order to avoid the costs and uncertainty of litigation.

#### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby acknowledge and agree as follows:

- 1. The Parties have agreed that Donnelly shall pay the Trustee the sum of \$1,600, in a one-time payment (the "Payment"), to resolve all potential claims that the Trustee and/or Howrey has or may have against Donnelly.
- 2. Donnelly has agreed to provide the Payment according to this Agreement in exchange for the releases provided to Donnelly in this Agreement. Accordingly, within fourteen (14) days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, as defined in Paragraph 17 below, Donnelly shall cause a transfer of the Payment to the Trustee by check as follows:

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Payable to: "Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey LLP"
Diamond McCarthy LLP
Attention – Cathy Burrow
Two Houston Center
909 Fannin Street, Suite 1500
Houston, Texas 77010

- 3. Within ten (10) business days of receipt of the Payment, the Trustee shall prepare the necessary documents and file them with the Bankruptcy Court to dismiss the Adversary Proceeding with prejudice.
- 4. Upon execution of this Agreement, the Trustee will seek the approval of the Bankruptcy Court of this Agreement in accordance with Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). Donnelly agrees to reasonably cooperate, as needed, in the request for approval of this Agreement from the Bankruptcy Court. This Agreement is expressly contingent upon the approval of the Bankruptcy Court.
- 5. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and receipt of the Payment, the Trustee on its own behalf and on behalf of Howrey, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Donnelly of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Howrey or the Trustee has ever had, now has, or shall have against Donnelly, including any Excess Distribution Claims.
- 6. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement and after transfer of the Payment to the Trustee, Donnelly, in his own name and on behalf of his agents, administrators, successors, and assigns, for consideration as enumerated above, hereby releases, acquits, satisfies, and forever discharges Howrey and the Trustee, their successors, predecessors, assigns, representatives, insurers, guarantors, as well as their past and present directors, officers, members, managers, employees, subsidiaries, partners and spouses of partners, parents, affiliates, affiliated companies, joint venture partners, subcontractors, attorneys, and agents, of and on account of all manner of action and actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, bills, specialties, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, variances, trespasses, damages, judgments, executions of claims, claims and demands whatsoever latent or patent, in law or in equity, known or unknown, mature or unmature, that Donnelly has ever had, now has, or shall have against Howrey or the Trustee.
- 7. In connection with the releases set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the Parties waive all rights they may have under section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides that:

A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time

## of executing the release, which if known to him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.

By executing this Agreement, the Parties expressly and forever waive the benefits, protection and rights of California Civil Code section 1542, or any other similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction, with respect to matters released by the Agreement.

- 8. Each of the Parties stipulates, agrees and warrants the following: (a) that the terms of this Agreement are reasonable; (b) they will not challenge or contest in any way the capacity or authority of any Party hereto to make the agreements, covenants, waivers, stipulations, and representations set forth herein; (c) the consideration for this Agreement is mutual and adequate.
- 9. The Parties acknowledge that the Trustee is acting solely in his capacity as the Chapter 11 Trustee of Howrey in this matter and has no personal liability whatsoever with respect to this Agreement or the transactions described herein.
- 10. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all previous written or oral agreements, stipulations, understandings, promises or negotiations relating to such subject matter. No Party to this Agreement has made or is relying on (and each Party disclaims the existence or materiality of any representations, warranties, or promises not expressly set forth in this Agreement. This Agreement can be modified only by writing executed by each of the Parties hereto.
- 11. This Agreement shall be binding on any and all replacements, successors, or assigns of the Trustee, including without limitation a chapter 7 trustee if the Bankruptcy Case is converted to one under chapter 7.
- 12. Except as otherwise specifically provided for herein, nothing contained in this Agreement shall create any rights, remedies or defenses in favor of any party of interest that is not a party to this Agreement.
- 13. Each Party hereby submits to the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Court for any action, suit or proceeding to enforce this Agreement which involves Howrey or the Trustee and agrees that any such action, suit or proceeding shall be brought in the Bankruptcy Court. Each Party hereby irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection that it may now or hereafter have to the venue of any such action, suit or proceeding brought in such a court related solely to the Agreement and involving Howrey or the Trustee. The Bankruptcy Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Agreement as it relates to the Bankruptcy Case.
- 14. Neither this Agreement, nor any of the terms hereof, nor any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith shall constitute or be construed as or be deemed to be evidence of an admission on the part of any party of any liability or wrongdoing whatsoever, or the truth or untruth, or merit or lack of merit, of any claim or defense of any party; nor shall this Agreement, or any of the terms hereof, or any negotiations or proceedings in connection herewith, or any performance or forbearance hereunder, be offered or received in evidence or used in any proceeding against any Party, or used in any proceeding, or otherwise, for any purpose whatsoever except with respect to the effectuation and enforcement of this Agreement.

- 15. This Agreement may be signed in counterparts, which, when taken as a whole, shall constitute one and the same document; and faxed, electronic and emailed signatures shall be deemed originals.
- 16. This Agreement shall be interpreted, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California (without taking into account conflicts-of-laws principles) and the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules, as applicable.
- 17. This Agreement shall be effective (the "<u>Effective Date</u>") seven (7) days after Donnelly receives written notice that the Bankruptcy Court has entered an order approving this Agreement under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

AGREED:

Dated: June 4, 2015

Howrey LLP, Debtor

By:

Allan B. Diamond, Chapter 11 Trustee

Dated: June 3, 2015

Kenneth Donnelly